



▲ *Kaisersaal building on concrete frame, during the lifting*

## **Computer Controlled Precision Heavy Lifting**

Sony is building its European headquarters on the site of the neo-Baroque Kaisersaal building, adjacent to the luxury war-damaged Hotel Esplanade on the Potsdamer-Platz in Berlin.

To preserve these historical monuments, the city council required that Sony integrate them into its building complex. However, because the Kaisersaal was also blocking the construction of an important road, it had to be relocated by 75 m.

Sony entrusted general contractor Ed. Zublin AG with the relocation works. This consisted in strengthening the fairly fragile two-storey building (14 x 17 m in plan) and underpinning it with a grid of massive post-tensioned beams.

Once the building had been lifted, sliding tracks could be extended underneath and the building moved. As Zublin had already successfully worked with VSL's Heavy

Lifting specialists, we were invited to define a lifting concept. VSL's lifting scheme consisted of jacking up the 1,300 tonne building using VSL strand lifting units. 13 SLU-330 type units were used to form 11 lifting points, nine outside and two inside the building. The hydraulic pump scheme and the computerised control system using laser technology were both designed by VSL to maintain the level and avoid excessive deformation.

The scope of VSL's works included the design, supply, assembly and operation of the lifting and control equipment. After five days of assembly work, the Kaisersaal was raised off the ground and lifted the following morning without major interruptions over a distance of 2.40 m in about two hours.

This very demanding project was an excellent occasion for Heavy Lifting to prove its know-how and reliability.

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