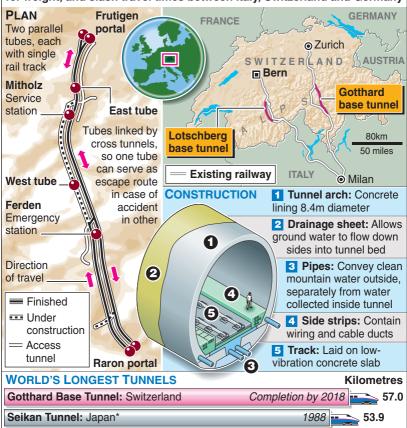
## **Record rail tunnel breaches Alpine barrier**

Switzerland is to open the first of two huge tunnel construction projects designed to improve rail links across the Alps. The Lotschberg Base Tunnel – the world's longest on land – will increase rail capacity, mainly for freight, and slash travel times between Italy, Switzerland and Germany



Iwate-Ichinohe: Japan 2002 25.8 Source: BLS AlpTransit

2007 -- 34.6

Channel Tunnel: UK-France\*

Lotschberg Base Tunnel: Switz.

\*Undersea tunnel ource: BLS AlpTransit © GRAPHIC NEWS

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