



- ▶ TOTAL SALES OF FCC GROUP CLIMB TO 6.28 BILLION EUROS
- ▶ INAUGURATION OF THE SPORTS PALACE OF THE MADRID AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY

▶ **Leaders in Logistics**



# FCC's net income up 26%

**F**omento de Construcciones y Contratas, S.A. posted 6,285.9 million euros in sales in 2004, 3.9% higher than in the previous year.

All the core business areas showed positive performance: Services (+11.6%), Construction (+ 4.7%), and Cement (+ 1.8%).

Growth in activities in Spain remained strong (+ 4.3%) while international activities generated 10.2% of the Group's total sales. Thanks to the robust pace in new contracts, the order book backlog climbed 6.9% year-on-year, reaching a record 16,405.1 million euros.

## ► Services

The services division posted an 11.6% rise, with the strongest growth registered in:

- Industrial waste (+29%), where positive performance was boosted by the incorporation of new companies acquired in the year.
- Water (+8.3%), thanks to the start of new contracts awarded in Spain.

- Transport (+32.8%), on the back of the start of operations of the streetcars in Barcelona.

- Parking (+22.8%), boosted by new supervised parking contracts in Madrid.

- Logistics (+11.2%) thanks to contracts in new activities.

## ► Construction

Sales in this division were up 4.7%, supported by national activities (3.8%) and international sales (+27.8%), which for the first time in recent years showed a positive growth trend.

The construction order book reached a record 4,351.2 million euros, climbing 18.9% on the year. This amount represents 16.9 months' worth of business, two more months than at year-end 2003.

## ► Cement

Sales in the cement area totalled 881.5 million euros, 1.8% higher than in the previous year. The strength of the Spanish market, where sales were up 3.5%,

compensated for the drop in the United States due to the 8% depreciation of the dollar against the euros.

## ► Results

Gross operating income (EBITDA) grew 5.9% to 851.3 million euros, with the sales margin at 13.5%,



two decimal points higher than a year earlier. Ordinary revenue climbed 9.4% year-on-year to

## SALES BY BUSINESS LINES (MILLION EUROS)

	Dec-04	Dec-03	% Variation	% Over Total Sales
Public services	2,333.7	2,089.9	11.6	36.9
Construction	3,090.2	2,950.1	4.7	48.9
Cement	881.5	865.6	1.8	13.9
Other	17.1	258.0	-92.7	0.3
Intra-group	-36.6	-113.1		
TOTAL	6,285.9	6,050.5	3.9	100.0

## EBITDA BY BUSINESS LINE (MILLION EUROS)

	Amount	% Total
Public Services	377.2	44.3
Construction	159.0	18.7
Cement	265.0	31.1
Other	50.1	5.9
TOTAL	851.3	100.0





570.2 million euros, representing 9% of total sales versus 8.6% in 2003.

This positive operating performance was complemented by lower financial results thanks to lower debt and ongoing low interest rates.

Furthermore, equity earnings reflect the larger contribution from Realia, where net reported

### ► SALES REACHED 6.28 billion euros.



income increased 9.8%.

Earnings before taxes (EBT) jumped 21.6% to 603.3 million euros, incorporating 33.1 million euros in extraordinary gains mainly from the sale of a 10% stake in Safei.

The parent company's reported income was 338.36 million euros, 25.8% up on the year, while the net sales margin, at 6.2% was 1.1 percentage points higher than in the previous year.

Expenditures, at 625 million euros, were at a level similar to the year before.

The Group's net debt totalled 250.8 million euros, down 54.1%, and the gearing ratio (net debt divided by debt plus equity plus minority interests) was 9.28% versus 19.7% a year ago.

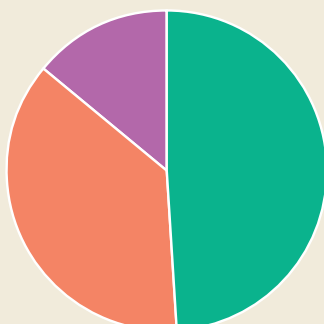
The workforce at 31 December totalled 63,602, with 1,813 new jobs added in the year. ■

#### BREAKDOWN BY ACTIVITIES

49% Construction

37% Services

14% Cement



#### INCOME (MILLION EUROS)

	2004	2003	2002
Gross operating income (EBITDA)	851	804	741
%/Sales	13.5	13.3	13.5
Net operating income (EBIT)	544	519	498
%/sales	8.6	8.6	9.1
Earnings before taxes	603	496	455
%/sales	9.6	8.2	8.3
Parent company's net reported income	388	309	273
%/sales	6.2	5.1	5.0

# Esther Koplowitz allows the Grupo Faustino to acquire a stake in B 1998, S.L. and strengthens the Ibersuizas alliance

**E**sther Koplowitz and the Grupo Faustino entered into an agreement

enabling this group to acquire a stake in B 1998, S.L., which, with 52.4% of capital, is FCC's core shareholder.

The Grupo Faustino, through its subsidiary Larranza XXI, invested 100 million euros in acquiring a 5.33% shareholding in B 1998. As disclosed to the Stock Exchange Commission (CNMV), this is a long-term investment with call and put options on this stake up to 2017.

The incorporation of this new partner in B 1998 reinforces the strategy that Esther Koplowitz announced last July aimed at consolidating a diversified, stable, and solvent structure for FCC's core shareholder.

The group from Rioja will be entitled to a seat in the Board of Directors of B 1998 as well as in FCC.

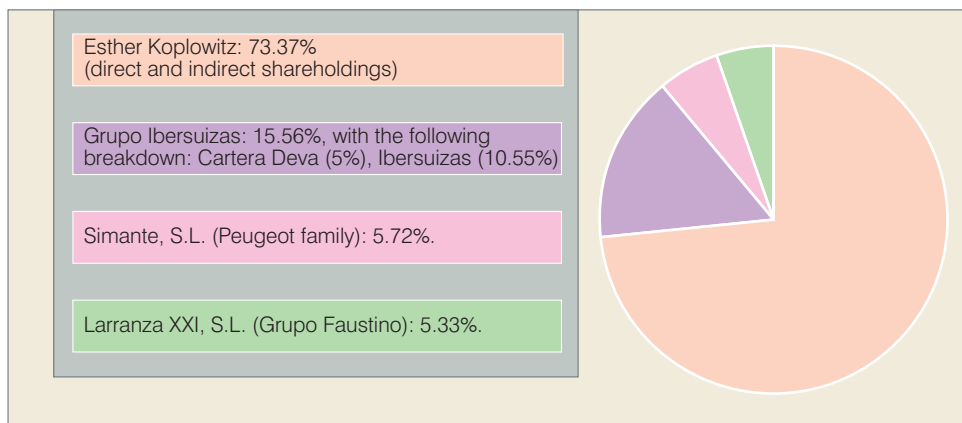
The amount paid for this transaction was based on a valuation of 30.5 euros per underlying FCC share, equal to the trading volume weighted average in the last six months, as calculated in December 2004.

### ► Ibersuizas raises its stake

At the same time and in a separate move, B 1998 also informed the stock exchange authorities that a group of Ibersuizas investors had increased the stake that they had acquired in B 1998 last July (12.3%) to 15.56%, shoring up the alliance and confirming their confidence in FCC's development.

The transaction, closed at the

## ESTHER KOPLOWITZ OWNS A 73.37% STAKE IN B 1998



## THE GROUP FROM LA RIOJA INVESTS 100 MILLION EUROS IN ACQUIRING AN OVER 5.33% STAKE IN B 1998

Faustino is the leading group engaging in the production of quality wines and the management of wineries with designation of origin. With six wineries in La Rioja, Navarre, La Mancha, and another one to be acquired shortly in Ribera del Duero, Grupo Faustino owns 1,522 hectares of vineyards, 88,700 wine barrels, and an inventory of over 12 million bottles of wine. According 2003 figures, the Group processed more than 18 million kilograms of grapes, generated 90 million euros in sales, and exported 42% of its production to 67 countries.

same price as the one paid by Larranza XX and totalling 61 million euros, represents an additional 3.25% interest in B 1998. Cartera Deva, Ibersuizas Holdings, Inversiones Ibersuizas, Inversiones San Felipe, in addition to Arzubi Inversiones and EBN Banco de Negocios, both of which are new B 1998 shareholders, were involved in this new acquisition. Following this transaction, Inversiones Ibersuizas, San Felipe,

Arzubi, and EBN will contribute their stakes to Ibersuizas Holdings. As a result of this transaction, the 12-member B 1998 Board of Directors, will be made up of eight members appointed by Esther Koplowitz, two by Ibersuizas, one by Peugeot, and another one by Grupo Faustino. Meanwhile, the new investor, Larranza XXI, will appoint a new board member who will join the current 15-members FCC Board of Directors. ■

► **IN A PARALLEL AND SEPARATE TRANSACTION**, investors under the umbrella of the Ibersuizas Group increased their stake in B 1998 to 15.56%, incorporating two new investors, EBN Banco de Negocios and Arzubi Inversores.



## 2004 results underscore the strength of the Realia Group

Realia Group, with FCC and Caja Madrid as core shareholders, posted excellent results in 2004, confirming its positioning in the real estate market and its consolidation and growth driven strategy.

**R**ealia Group's sales in 2004 jumped 18% to 611 million euros, with turnover reaching 575 million euros, 22% more than in 2003. Income before taxes was up 19% to 177 million euros. Net income, at 117 million euros was 10% higher year-on-year. Consolidated net income showed a 15% rise versus the previous year, reaching nearly 129 million euros, boosting the sales margin to 22.4%. The housing development division was one of the most dynamic, with 405 million euros in sales, and revenues from this activity increasing 14% over the previous year. Operating income surged 47% year-on-year to 128 million euros. Housing starts in 2004 totalled 2,058, slightly higher than the 1,958 figure of the previous year. Revenues from office space and commercial centre rentals at 31 December were 14% higher than in 2003 totalling 82.4 million euros.

### ► Investments in land

Over the previous year, the Realia Group made significant efforts in purchasing land at strategic locations such as Madrid,



Villanueva del Pítamo (Seville), Ibiza, Roquetas de Mar (Almería), Sabadell, and in San Feliú de Guixols in the Costa Brava. Over 200 million euros were spent in land purchases. The land management business generated 85 million euros in revenues, producing a margin of 35 million euros, 30% of net income, and underscoring this activity's contribution to creating value for the company through the land management process. The Realia Group also consolidated its activities in Portugal where it owns over 85,000 m<sup>2</sup> in land suitable for development, making it one of the leading Spanish real estate companies operating in that

country. The Company also boosted its expansion plans by creating a company in Poland, Realia Polska Investycje, a wholly-owned subsidiary involved in housing development.

### ► Efforts in the property business

The purchase of the Los Cubos building, close to the M-30 in Madrid, was one of the most significant property acquisitions last year. The building has 18,316 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space distributed over the ground floor plus nine additional floors. Realia also purchased the El Sequero industrial park in Agoncillo (Logroño) last year, with premises measuring over 30,000 m<sup>2</sup>. In addition, the Group is developing several commercial centre projects in Madrid, Murcia, and Guadalajara. These transactions are part of the strategy developed by the company aimed at acquiring property at competitive locations and strengthen its presence in the commercial centre and leisure sector.

Realia currently owns 500,000 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space in the business areas of major cities in Spain, with more than 40 unique buildings with an average 97.3% occupancy rate. ■



## Investment totals 128 million euros



► **LEADING SPANISH** logistics operator in the liberalised market, with 325 million euros in annual sales.



# FCC acquires Grupo Logístico Santos

## BECOMES THE SPANISH LEADER IN THE LIBERALISED LOGISTICS MARKET

**T**he FCC Group, through its subsidiary FCC Versia, acquired a 100% stake in Grupo Logístico Santos (GLS) for 128 million euros, creating the leading Spanish logistics operator in the liberalised market, with 325 million euros in revenues per year.

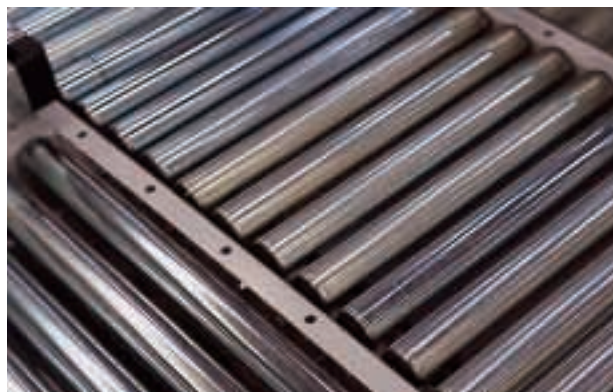
The integration of GLS in the FCC Logistics group enables the Company to consolidate a leading platform in Spanish logistics activities, a market with a low rate of outsourcing for these types of services (22%) in comparison to more developed markets such as the U.K. (37%) and France (33%). The key aspects of this transaction are:

- **Size:** creates the leading group in the liberalised market in Spain, with 325 million sales, 4,000 employees, and 650,000 m<sup>2</sup> of storage capacity in 64 operating centres (dedicated warehouses, regulators, and cross-docking platforms) in Spain and Portugal, managing a fleet of more than 1,700 vehicles.
- **Sector complementarities:** FCC's new logistics group will play a major role in the large consumer goods, household appliance, technology, pharmaceutical, and automotive sectors, with a well-diversified customer portfolio, placing it in an excellent positioning to take advantage of any growth opportunity that may arise in the future.
- **Geographical complementarities:** the merger of both





FCC'S LOGISTICS ACTIVITY, which develops solutions and projects in several industrial areas such as the auto, consumer goods, personal care, household appliance, pharmaceutical, technology, and various sectors, has a very diversified customer portfolio.



#### OPERATING IN THE MARKET SINCE 1993

Since 1993, the FCC Group, through its subsidiary FCC Versia, has been present in the logistics business, part of the services division, which together with construction and cement, is one of the Group's core activities. This business, generating 109 million euros in annual sales, has a presence in Spain (Aitena and Logística de Navarra, S.A.) and Portugal (Aitena Portugal, S.A.) and engages in logistics and transport operations mainly in the automotive, pharmaceutical, and technology sectors.

groups will enhance coverage of the Spanish and Portuguese markets thanks to the Group's significant presence in Portugal (Aitena Portugal).

Consequently, the new FCC logistics group will be involved in managing the entire supply chain, increasing its coverage and improving capillarity with the purpose of facilitating added value solutions that will redound in high quality customer services.

The GLS acquisition is in keeping with the process aimed at strengthening FCC Group's strategic areas (services, construction, and cement) as well as fulfilling the objective of becoming a leading player in all the sectors where it operates.

With this investment, FCC Group's services business will contribute more than 45% of operating income.

On 22 December last year, FCC's Board of Directors approved this acquisition, the first transaction undertaken by the FCC Group after the shareholding restructuring at B 1998 S.L., FCC's core shareholder. ■

► **FOLLOWING THIS** investment, FCC Group's services activity will contribute more than 45% of the total operating income.

# FCC offers comprehensive solutions in research and soil decontamination

The Government recently passed a new Royal Decree on contaminated soil that makes it mandatory for companies to assume their responsibilities in this respect, forcing them to remedy this situation and to prevent environmental risks.



**T**his recent legislation approved by the Cabinet last 14 January, requires potentially pollutant companies to prepare a report on the conditions of the land where they have industrial operations. The report would be sent to the corresponding regional government that will then decide, jointly with the Department for the Environment, the content of these status reports and timetable for forwarding such reports. This is the first time that soil pollutant concentrations are regulated by law, with the aim of ensuring the protection human health and of ecosystems. Furthermore, this decree defines what constitutes contaminated soil, a situation that must henceforth be reflected in the Property Registry on a note at the margin of the registry page. If soil is classified as contaminated, companies must take actions aimed at its recovery. In this respect, the FCC Group has had its own department since 1987 in charge of developing techniques

and analytical methods for the detection and the remedy of soil that has been contaminated by hazardous or toxic substances. The FCC Group develops this activity through TPA, Técnicas de Protección Ambiental, S.A., Ekonor, and Gemasur; which are part of the *Ámbito* brand, the umbrella group for all companies involved in industrial waste management. *Ámbito* operates more than 30 industrial waste treatment and recovery facilities throughout Spain. It employs more than 900 professionals exclusively dedicated to managing this type of waste, with 40% of them having undergraduate and graduate degrees. The group managed more than 900,000 tons of industrial waste last year, making it the leader in market share as well as in the number of facilities and sales volume. In 2004, *Ámbito* was engaged in projects at 120 locations. Its main customers are companies in the real estate, oil, power, and chemical sectors, with the main developed projects focused on land

MOBILE PLANT for the recovery of underground water deposits, on the left. Above, soil characterisation development.

characterisation and water contamination, risk analysis, and the design and execution of soil recovery projects.

## ► Research

*Ámbito's* activities range from environmental audits and contaminated soil analysis, to engineering and the recovery of contaminated land and zones. These actions imply highly specialised work to define the contamination of the subsoil at industrial facilities. Once contamination is detected, the soil is analysed, recovery methods are proposed, procedures improved, and new technologies are developed to execute these projects with the utmost efficiency. This activity is involved in analysing possible contamination following accidental spillages, the analysis of possible contamination at former dumping sites, at areas close to where tanks are buried under service stations, as well as projects in already dismantled industrial facilities where large





amounts of waste could have been left behind thereby preventing urban development in the area.

#### ► Decontamination

The decontamination of land and water-bearing areas is an essential activity for this FCC subsidiary since its proper management redounds in significant environmental benefits. Soil is a major natural resource and its contamination is detrimental. Consequently, all efforts should be made to protect this resource for the benefit of the environment and society. Some of the contaminants that FCC has treated include: heavy metals, organic pollutants, halogenated solvent, PCBs, etc. The presence of these agents on the soil could stem from industrial activities, accidents, inadequate management of waste, and occasional spillages. Its on-the-spot and off-site decontamination technologies, enable Ámbito to treat contaminated soil. On-the spot techniques are applied when certain conditions make the mobilisation of soil or underground water unnecessary. Reactive barriers and chemical oxidation, which specialists consider having a limited impact on the environment, are among the innovative techniques that the company employs in its decontamination projects.

At other times, the contaminant is removed through the mobilisation of underground water and the vapours present in soil or both. To achieve this, the company has mobile facilities for on-the-spot decontamination and vapour extracting plants for non-saturated areas. Off-site treatment implies the

RECOVERY WORK AT  
an abandoned  
industrial plant.

excavation and removal of soil that is subsequently transported to a centralised facility, or its treatment in an appropriately conditioned zone within the plot or its treatment using mobile equipment.

Ámbito is implementing soil treatment lines at its centralised facilities, such as the Los Barrios (Cádiz) plant that was entirely designed by FCC and which will be the first in Spain to have a fixed treatment line for decontaminating soil by means of biological treatments. Once the soil is recovered, it can be used as filling, cover, etc.

Ámbito has a highly specialised and qualified multi-disciplinary technical team. It also has several types of soil and water sample-taking equipment, portable laboratory equipment, as well as its own technology for on-the-spot biological soil treatment and for the application of inerting techniques. ■

#### MAIN REFERENCES

- Collaboration with the Madrid Environment Department and Land Management in the preparation and publication of the Methodological Research Guides for Soil Quality; analysis of risks affecting human health and ecosystems; contaminated soil recovery technologies contemplated in the Autonomous Government's Regional Action Plan for the 2001-2006 period.
- Stabilisation of more than 300,000 Mt of metal-contaminated ash.
- Participation in several emergency programs for burst oil pipelines, merchandise transport related accidents, etc.
- Research related projects and those involving the decontamination of more than 300 service stations.
- Environmental recovery in several abandoned industrial sites.
- The preparation of a recovery project for six dumping sites in the Madrid Autonomous Region.
- The decontamination of subsoil contaminated by gas and oil during the project for enlarging the subway system.
- Implementation of decontamination systems at six oil and gas storage and distribution facilities.
- Decontamination of the perchloroethylene-contaminated underground water reservoir at Bonmatí.
- Treatment of more than 120,000 m<sup>3</sup> using bioremediation techniques. Installation of interception canopies in underground water sources at petrochemical complexes.



FCC STRENGTHENS its positioning as the leading European airport handling company.



► **FLIGHTCARE PROVIDES** passenger handling and boarding services at Ostend-Bruges and another 11 airports.

## Flightcare wins contract for the Ostend-Bruges airport

**BILLINGS IN BELGIUM IN SEVEN YEARS ESTIMATED AT OVER 720 MILLION EUROS**



**F**lightcare, an FCC subsidiary, strengthens its positioning as the leading handling company in Europe after winning the 7-year concession that was put out in an international tender for cargo and passenger handling services at the Ostend-Bruges airport in Belgium, boosting sales in this country to 720 million euros.

This contract comes after another 7-year concession was recently awarded for the Brussels airport. The Ostend-Bruges airport handles more than 110,000 passengers yearly plus 100,000 tons of cargo. Total sales are estimated at 20 million euros. The FCC Group provides handling



AERIAL VIEW of the Ostend-Bruges airport facilities.

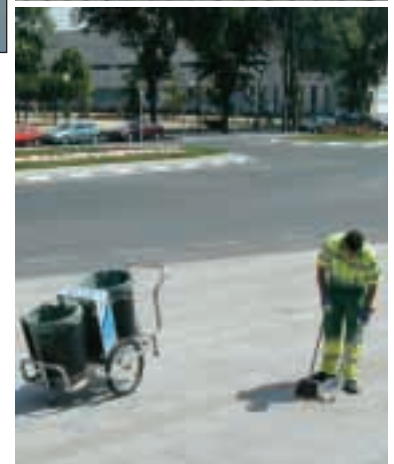
services at the Las Palmas, Lanzarote, Fuerteventura, Malaga, Barcelona, Bilbao, Santiago de Compostela, Valencia, and Madrid airports.

In 2002, the company acquired the assets owned by SABENA, the

Belgian airline company, which included the handling concession at the Brussels airport up to 31 October 2004, during which time, quality ratings improved and relationships with labour unions remained stable.

In the spring of last year, FCC won the 7-year concession for the Brussels airport thanks to excellent track record in the previous two years and to the proposal submitted in competition with leading companies in the sector. In 2005, FCC will be providing services to more than 40 million passengers and 200,000 flights operated by about 130 airline companies. ■

## FCC awarded street cleaning contracts in two of Madrid's districts



SOME OF THE street cleaning equipment and vehicles used by FCC in several Madrid districts.

On 31 December 2004, Madrid local authorities awarded Alfonso Benítez, S.A., an FCC subsidiary, an 8-year street cleaning management contract at the new districts in Carabanchel and Montecarmelo, a concession worth 37.5 million euros. In executing this contract, FCC will be using the most technologically advanced equipment and work methods to provide the best services to the 19,888 families living in these new neighbourhoods. The company will be placing special emphasis on the most frequented streets and squares, cleaning 125,000 lineal meters and setting up different work shifts to provide 24h/365 day services in these new districts. The entire fleet of vehicles is made up of the latest generation equipment. In addition to regular sweeping and flushing services, the company will also provide special services such as cleaning vertical and horizontal parameters, removal of chewing gum and dog litter, etc. Several extremely versatile equipment will be used

to provide these special cleaning services, such as: 20 m<sup>3</sup>-capacity pavement flusher vehicles with four axles Highly mobile truck-borne street sweepers. Hybrid electricity-gasoline powered inspection vehicles. Vans with high-pressure cold and hot water flushers with an additional steamer for the removal of chewing gum and graffiti. Natural gas-powered trucks. The FCC subsidiary has wagered on an ambitious training plan covering the prevention of on-the-job risks, service methodologies, commitments towards quality and the environment, as well instructions on the use of this new machinery. Vehicles will feature Global Positioning Systems (GPS) that provide constant information on

the location, direction, and speed. This equipment also reproduces the routes of these vehicles. The technological upgrades that have been implemented are environment-friendly, significantly reducing gas emissions and complying with EURO III regulations on exhaust fumes. Several vehicles have been made soundproof to reduce noise pollution. ■

► **FCC IS ALSO INVOLVED** in street cleaning activities in the Barajas, Fuencarral, Hortaleza, Tetuán, Usera, Villaverde, and Retiro districts, providing services to one million residents.

## Sant Fost de Campsentelles (Barcelona) wins award for an initiative jointly undertaken with Aqualia

**T**he town of Sant Fost de Campsentelles, where Aqualia is involved in water management, won the Trámite Parlamentario magazine award for its joint initiative with Aqualia as part of the quality commitment program. The award ceremony, in which the town's mayor handed the prize, was held at the House of Representatives with its Chairman, Manuel Marín, presiding the ceremony. This program's objective is to maintain the optimal level of quality for municipal services. Under this program, users who are affected by the interruption of water supply for more than two-hours will be paid an amount equal to the first ten cubic meters consumed.

Aqualia, as the concession company responsible for Sant Fost's municipal water supply services, and in line with its policy with respect to quality, assumes all the commitments established in this program.

The citizens of this town in the



► **THIS INITIATIVE FALLS WITHIN** the scope of the commitments assumed by Aqualia in its Quality Charter.

province of Barcelona who have suffered any interruptions in their water supply, will receive credit

equal to the consumption of 10,000 litres of water as compensation. ■

## Ongoing implementation of Quality Charter in water supply services

**A** greater number of services provided by Aqualia now offer customers the Quality Charter: a firm and real commitment with the population, by which, if any of these services do not comply with their respective parameters, the company will credit a specific amount in the customer's account. These technical and informative commitments are

adapted to each particular town or city.

In 2004, Aqualia implemented the Quality Charter in all the municipalities in the province of Toledo where it operates, including the Algodor region encompassing 45 towns and a population of 200,000. The Murcia branch implemented this charter in 18 towns with 200,000 inhabitants. This initiative was also



announced in Badajoz, Sant Vicent dels Horts (Barcelona), and in Almería, a city with a population of 180,000.

The inhabitants of all the municipalities where this initiative has been implemented receive information on all the service enhancements through various channels, such as leaflets enclosed with the water invoice, fliers, and in the mass media.

This year, Aqualia plans to launch this quality charter in Denia, Alcoy, Ibiza, Vigo, Oviedo, Salamanca, Jaén, La Línea de la Concepción, Sanlúcar de Barrameda, Mérida, Ávila, and Puerto de la Cruz. ■



## Aqualia awarded contract in Arteixo (La Coruña)

The company announces a 20 million euro investment program, one of the main commitments contemplated in this new contract.

**A**qualia was chosen to participate in a joint venture managed by the Arteixo (La Coruña) local administration involving the municipal drinking water supply and maintenance of the sewage network. This contract portfolio is worth 116 million euros. The 30-year concession contemplates the possibility of managing other municipal public services, the execution of projects, and the provision of complementary services for the smooth functioning of the local administration. Pursuant to this concession, Aqualia will supply 2.7 million m<sup>3</sup>

of water per year and provide services to 11,760 customers. The company has agreed to develop an investment plan totalling almost 20 million euros. This contract was awarded to Aqualia after its proposal received the highest rating with respect to the projects submitted by other companies in this public tender. Arteixo, a town with a population of more than 25,800, offers great growth potential since the exterior harbour of La Coruña is to be built within its municipal area and, in addition, the Economic Activities Park will be opened in this area in the very near future. ■

### PROVEN EXPERIENCE

Aqualia's activities focus on management, operations, and maintenance of water supply and treatment and sewage public services. The company operates in more than 700 towns in Spain, providing services to more than 11 million.

In Galicia, Aqualia contributes its proven experience and expertise in comprehensive water management, providing services to a population of nearly 500,000 in cities and towns such as Vigo, Redondela, Porriño, Nigrán, Cangas, Bueu, Rivadavia, Sarriá, Monforte de Lemos, Mondoñedo, and Moaña. The Company has a joint venture with the Nación Public Administration. Its order book totals 312.8 million euros.

## FCC Group launches its major wager in water treatment: Aqualia Industrial



**A**qualia's industrial waste water treatment division unveiled the Aqualia Industrial brand in the BTA-2005 International Food Technology Salon held in Barcelona from 18 to 21 February. This new brand provides wastewater treatment services, solutions, and equipment, underscoring Aqualia's and FCC Group's efforts and commitment aimed at combining all their assets in this sector. This new brand counts on the experience of companies such as: Nilo, a specialist in industrial effluents; Chemipur, involved in operations and maintenance; Hidrotec, an expert in the design, maintenance, and operations of water treatment facilities; SPA's industrial division, which provides environmental solutions and processes; and, Grave, a company specialising in the design and supply of processing plants. Aqualia Industrial offers the most advanced technologies in the market, capable of covering the needs of the industry, and has the advantage of acting as a single point-of-contact to fulfil all of the industry's requirements. It currently has a large customer portfolio in the food and agriculture, the petrochemical, and the electric utility sectors. With the expert Aqualia and the solid FCC Group behind it, the new brand offers a large commercial network throughout Spain, capable of providing comprehensive and top quality services, focused on covering the customer's global needs. ■

► **THE BRAND, OFFERING a wide range of solutions and services for the industry, was unveiled at the International Food Technology Salon.**

# FCC Construcción hands the 2004 Quality Development awards

TO THE YEAR'S EXCELLENCE IN CIVIL WORK

**F**

CC Construcción's Quality Committee awarded the 2004

Quality Development prizes to the Gavá (Barcelona) Air Traffic Control Centre, by the Cataluña Building I Division (Zone III), and the A-381 Jerez-Los Barrios Motorway in (Stretch IV), by the Western Andalucía Civil Works Division (Zone I).

## Gavá Air Traffic Control Centre in Barcelona.

The air traffic control building, situated between Gavá and Castelldefells, 6 km from the airport, will house the activities of the Eastern Regional Air Navigation Management and take over the functions of the current Prat control centre.

The building has 33,000 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space plus a 300-vehicle parking facility. The communications tower, with an elegant design, completes the building at a 166,000m<sup>2</sup> landscaped area. A tele-management and tele-control system was installed for efficient management of all activities. These systems receive all information on the functioning o

all systems and electro-mechanical equipment.

All air traffic in this area, which also includes Valencia, Girona, Murcia, Reus, Sabadell, and Valencia, will be controlled from these new facilities.

## Jerez-Los Barrios motorway in Cádiz, Stretch IV.

The A-381, which connects Jerez de la Frontera and Los Barrios in

THE A-381 Jerez-Los Barrios motorway in Cádiz (Stretch IV), built by the Western Andalucía Civil Works Division (Zone I).

the province of Cádiz, is one of the priority targets of the 1993-2007 Infrastructure Master Plan as well as the 1997-2007 Andalucía Master Infrastructure Plan, and will be part of the Trans-European Transport Network.

Running through the Alcalá de Los Gazules village area, covering 10 kilometres between Majaplata and La Malmosa, the last 6 kilometres of the motorway wind through Los





THE GAVÁ Air Traffic Control Center in Barcelona, a Cataluña Building I Division project (Zone III).

## SUBMITTED PROJECTS:

### The Building division

- 115 housing units in The Marina at Sotogrande (Cádiz).
- The Santiago Bernabeu soccer stadium roofing (Madrid).
- Gavá Air Traffic Control Centre (Barcelona).
- The World Trade Center Office Building in Cornellá (Barcelona).
- The Psychiatric Home in Valencia.
- The Castilla-La Mancha RTV Building in Toledo.
- The Camposagrado Palace refurbishment project in Avilés (Asturias).

### Civil Works Division

- A-381 Jerez-Los Barrios motorway (Stretch IV).
- The Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Ring road – Phase III
- Horta Bus Depot.
- Construction of the R-3, R-5 and M-50 West.
- The Flat Fish Farm.

## ANTONIO PÉREZ COLMENERO, HONORARY PROJECT MANAGER

FCC Construcción's Quality Committee awarded the 2004 Honorary Project Manager award to Antonio Pérez Colmenero, the General Manager of Human and Material Resources.

The panel of judges selected Antonio Pérez Colmenero, as stated in its resolution, because of "the constant support he has always given to FCC Construcción in all labour related matters, particularly with respect to labour unions and prevention of on-the-job risks related aspects".

This, as well as the 2004 Quality Development Award ceremony, was held in the Torre Picasso Building on 23 December last.



Alcornocales Natural Park, making Stretch IV the main gateway to one of the richest and most unique natural spaces in Andalucía.

The typical section comprises two separate carriageways, each with two 3.5 metre wide lanes, with 2.5 metre wide and 3.5 interior and exterior hard shoulders, respectively. Along this stretch, four intersections and two viaducts were built, respecting an underpass and a stream. The investment for this project has amounted to 60.7 million euros. ■

# FCC Construcción concludes a transaction that marks

**A**utovía del Camino, S.A. concluded the funding for the motorway that will connect Pamplona and Logroño. The project was awarded by the Navarre Autonomous Governemnt on July 2002 to a consortium participated by FCC Construcción, Corporación Caja Navarra, and Navarra de Empresas de Construcción, companies that have created a company, Autovía del Camino, S.A. that will have a 30-concession for the construction, upkeep, and operations of a 70 km-long motorway.. A 362.2 million euro funding agreement for this motorway was signed in 2004. This facility is broken down into: a loan granted

by the European Investment Bank (EIB) totalling 175 million euros, guaranteed by a mono-line company; a long-term 163.6 million euro syndicated

loan with Caja de Ahorros de Navarra as the lead bank; and a 24 million euro loan for funding VAT payments during the construction period.

## NOVELTIES IN THE FUNDING SCHEME

- The first infrastructure project in Spain rated by the leading credit rating agencies (BBB- by Standard & Poor's, and an undisclosed rating by Moody's).
- The first financial underwriting transaction in Spain by a mono-line company. XL Capital Insurance (with an AAA rating from Standard and Poor's and an Aaa rating from Moody's) will unconditionally and irrevocably guarantee the repayment of the EIB loan.
- The first inflation risk hedged transaction in Spain. The concession company entered into an inflation swap agreement to ensure a specific inflation rate for part of the cash flows estimated over a 24-year period.

ONE OF THE MOST important projects ever awarded by the Navarre Regional Government.





# a milestone in infrastructure funding in Spain



THE 30-YEAR concession, which includes execution, upkeep, and operations, was awarded by the Navarra Regional Government to a consortium participated by FCC Construcción, Corporación Caja Navarra, and Navarra de Empresas de Construcción.

well as its cost.

Furthermore, this is the first time that an infrastructure project is undertaken in Spain in which a derivative instrument is used to hedge the inflation rate over the next 23 years, thereby providing greater stability to cash flows generated in the future.

## ► Shadow toll scheme

The motorway will operate under a shadow toll scheme. This means that users will not have to pay any tolls since the Navarre administration will pay the concession company a specific fee for light vehicles and another fee for heavy vehicles based on the kilometres covered, and will also apply discounts based on service levels.

The project for building the motorway connecting Pamplona and Logroño involves increasing the carriage ways of the current N-111 twofold in certain stretches plus building new roads and infrastructures, including the El Perdón and the Lazagurría tunnels and the Santiago Bridge. The project also entails the revamping of 68 km of local access roads serving as gateways to the new infrastructure. ■

## ► THE FUNDING FACILITY totals 362.6 million euros.

This facility differs from others generally used for infrastructure projects thanks to its average cost, less than half of the average for similar projects.

Besides the European Investment Bank's involvement in this project, the financial structure offers many novelties. One of these is that this is the first time that a project in Spain has a credit rating, in this case, "investment grade", which significantly enhances the terms and conditions of the loan in with respect to the life of the loan as

### A 30-YEAR CONCESSION

In the summer of 2002, the Public Works, Transport, and Communications Department of the Navarre Government awarded FCC Construcción a contract for the concession, construction, and operations of the Pamplona-Navarra motorway, one of the largest project ever awarded by the Navarre Regional Government.

The 30-year concession project will be financed through a shadow toll scheme.

This fast and essential road for the future of Navarre is divided into two phases: the 30.2 km Pamplona (Zizur-Mayor)-Estella stretch and the 32.2 km Estella-Logroño stretch. The project also contemplates the revamping of 16 local access roads, a maintenance centre in Estella, and a system for measuring traffic density.

The route covers five stretches and includes four unique projects: the Perdón and the Lazagurría tunnels, the La Reina bridge over the Arga river, and the Estella road.

# Innovation and sustainability at FCC C

## THE LOGRO AND RETO PROJECTS: TWO EXAMPLES OF GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES

**A**s part of its commitment to innovation and sustainability, FCC Construcción is developing several activities aimed at minimising the impact of projects on the environment and providing information on good environmental practices to all interested parties.

Good practices are useful, not merely because of their simplicity

and low costs, but also because of their fast and surprising results. These practices mainly require a change in the attitude of people and organizations. Since these practices do not require large investments, they offer high yields and are generally well-accepted since they do not affect processes.

### ► The Logro Project

Thanks to the many years that FCC

has been meticulously implementing environmental systems in its projects, the Company is now developing an innovation project, "Optimisation of waste management in construction", abbreviated as the Logro Project, the purpose of which is the optimal management of waste generated in construction sites to minimize costs and the impact on the environment and to reduce the need for dumping sites and transport.

The project is partially subsidised as part of the PROFIT Project under the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Industry, Tourism, and Commerce in the 2003 and 2004 grants. The tasks included in this project can be classified into three main areas. One of these is the development of several instruments for the optimal definition and the application of the Waste Management plan using computer applications that make it possible to calculate the volume of waste generated in a project, those that can be recycled and to develop machinery prototypes that enable the selection of waste at its origin, its transport and storage at the construction site. Additionally, the project focuses on the definition, application, and monitoring of a management plan for different types of waste at construction sites, as well as training for employees involved at all levels.

The Logro concept is currently being applied as a pilot project in several FCC Construcción projects, including the refurbishment project at the Cataluña National Art Museum.

Zone II of the Cataluña Building division is the FCC Construcción organization currently heading this project. This division is

**Projecte Logro**

Optimització de la gestió dels residus en la indústria de la construcció

Correcta gestió dels recursos  
Reducir | Reutilitzar | Reciclar

FCC CONSTRUCCION

# onstrucción

working jointly with the Cataluña Construction Technology Institute (ITEC) and the company Automóviles Utilitarios.

## ► Reto Project

At the same time, FCC is involved in another project, "The reduction of construction related impacts on the territory", also known as the RETO project, which aims to minimise the impact on the environment by reducing the volume of waste materials at construction sites, by incorporating construction processes using sub-products from other activities, and by reducing the utilisation of virgin raw materials.

The Department of the Environment approved grants for the Reto project in the 2004-2007 edition of the National Scientific Research, Development, and Technological Innovation program.

This project pursues two scientific and technological objectives. Firstly, the definition of work plan to analyse, quantify, and appraise the reduction of surplus material, mainly inert materials, as well as the incorporation of by-products and the reduction in the use of raw materials. In addition, the project involves several study, analysis, and real scale validation phases for a specific number of technologies to be developed or modified for using, reusing, and recycling these materials based on construction techniques currently in place.

There is great interest in this project thanks to society's strong environmental awareness as well as due to the current situation in the construction sector because of the scarcity of aggregates and granular materials and their low quality. Furthermore, it is difficult

**Proyecto Reto**

**Reducció dels Efectes sobre el Territori causats per les Obres**

**OBJECTIUS PRINCIPALS**

- Reciclatge o re-utilització dels residus inerts generats per l'obra
- Incorporar subproductes reciclats d'activitats de fora de l'obra

**INDEX EFICIACIA AMBIENTAL**

**INDEX INTERN**

- Valors reciclats generats / Valors total general inerts

**INDEX EXTERN**

- Valors reciclats importats / Valors materials primers

**LINIES DE TREBALL**

- Maquines i equips sostenibles
- Pneumàtics fins d'ús
- Línies de treballadores
- Màquines guies
- Equips de residus sòlids urbans
- Equips siderúrgics
- Estabilitzacions de sòls amb ciments
- Agrégats i terres reciclats
- Reciclatge de materials procedents de dragat
- Línies de orientacions especials
- Saboneres de desinfecció

**FCC CONSTRUCCION**

## ► IMPROVEMENTS AIMED at introducing new work habits in the execution of projects.

to open new quarries to find adequate materials and the few aggregate deposits that exist, are often located far from the construction sites.

FCC Construction's Cataluña Civil Works Zone VI division has designed and developed the Reto Project with the backing of the Cataluña Polytechnic University's technology centre and the Group's technical

services and companies. The Logro and Reto projects were unveiled in the recent II Civil Engineering, Territory, and Environment International Congress in Santiago de Compostela and at the International RILEM Conference on the Use of the Recycled Materials in Buildings and Structures, held at the end of last year in Barcelona. ■



## Her Majesty Queen Sofia inaugurates the General University Hospital in Murcia

**H**er Majesty Queen Sofia inaugurated the General University

Hospital in Murcia, a centre designed for the comfort of its patients, providing medical assistance to more than 150,000. Thanks to its advanced technology and a wide range of services, this new hospital is set to become a reference in Europe.

The new health centre is situated in a 34,765 m<sup>2</sup> plot of land parallel to the river. With 63,428 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space, the main hospital building occupies 58,834 m<sup>2</sup> and the 4,594 m<sup>2</sup> block is used for installations and workshops. The building also has a 31,072 m<sup>2</sup> parking in the basement.

The project contemplates the execution of three parallel blocks: a hospital building (South block) consisting of a ground floor, seven upper floors, and three underground levels for parking and other installations. The outpatient clinic is in another building (the Intermediate block) with several footbridges connecting both facilities. This block has a ground floor and three upper floors. The other building (North Block), used for emergencies, has a ground floor and two upper floors. FCC also built the maintenance and installations building as well as the

### TECHNICAL TEAM

**HEAD OF PROJECT:**

Ignacio López Calvo.

**HEAD OF PRODUCTION:**

Lionel Gómez Duthilleul.

**HEAD OF PRODUCTION:**

Antonio Marín Angosto.

**HEAD OF PRODUCTION:**

José Antonio Ortega García.

**HEAD OF PRODUCTION:**

Ricardo Moral Murias.

area for treating drug addicts, with a basement under the existing street connecting it to the main building plus a ground floor and two upper floors.

In addition to executing this project, FCC had to move 223,000 m<sup>3</sup> of land. The project required 174,200 m<sup>3</sup> of reinforced concrete; 7,908 Mt of corrugated steel; more than 67,000 m<sup>2</sup> of different types of flooring materials; 5,200 m<sup>2</sup> of glass, 25,200 of false roofing; 6,400 m<sup>2</sup> of aluminium carpentry; and 45,000 m<sup>2</sup> of ceramic bricks as well as other materials.

FCC implemented installations adapted to the latest market demands, including: water treatment systems, solar panels on the roof, stand-by generators, cooling plants for temperature control, medicinal gas installations; fire protection, detection, and extinguishing units; and communications systems. The Company was also involved in the installing pavement materials, sewage systems, temperature control equipment, channelling, and electrical installations in the landscaped surroundings. The hospital has a maximum capacity for 340 beds and the entire operating rooms feature centralised IT systems for controlling the installations in the room. It also has a heliport on the roof of the main hospital building. Among the unique and decorative features of these facilities is that colours are used to differentiate the different hospital areas. ■



# The new **Madrid Sports Palace** opens to the public

**O**n 16 February, the Prince and Princess of Asturias inaugurated the new Sports Palace in Madrid, built by FCC. The reconstruction of this landmark building in Madrid, damaged by a fire in June 2001, required an investment of 124 million euros. Besides the Prince and Princess, Esperanza Aguirre, the president of the Madrid Autonomous Government, and the city's mayor, Alberto Ruiz Gallardón, also attended the inauguration ceremony.

The new sports facilities occupy 82,044 m<sup>2</sup>, 14,000 more than the former Palace. It can accommodate 15,000 spectators at sports and 18,000 at music events.

The spaces in this modern and multifunctional building can be adapted to meet the needs of different activities or events. It will be able to accommodate 10,000 spectators at athletic events, 16,000 at boxing matches, 15,000 at basketball games, or 14,000 at handball games.

## ► Telescopic stands

The tracks are prefabricated and can be dismantled and the telescopic moveable stands can be adapted to different requirements. More than 5,000 seats can be automatically deployed on the tracks to increase the stadium's capacity, making it possible to change the layout of the facilities in just a few minutes.

A longitudinal cover was designed as well as a moveable false acoustic ceiling with panels that face the stage, significantly enhancing the pavilion's acoustics. This required the most advanced technology, and makes it possible to add a new grandstand and several stage boxes to increase the pavilion's capacity.

The new facilities were meticulously designed, taking care of all security related aspect,



## TECHNICAL TEAM

### MANAGER:

José Antonio Bravo Casado.

### HEAD OF DEPARTMENT:

Luis Cano García.

### HEAD OF PROJECT:

Ricardo Rodríguez Collado.

### HEAD OF THE TECHNICAL OFFICE:

Maite Rua Rodríguez.

### HEAD OF THE BRANCH STRUCTURE:

Miguel Álvarez Laita.

### SUPERVISOR:

Antonio García Rodrigo.

## ACCOMMODATING UP TO 18,000 SPECTATORS

The new facilities in Madrid were designed to accommodate 15,000 spectators at sports and up to 18,000 at music events.

**Basketball:** 15,000 spectators

**Handball:** 14,000 spectators

**Athletic events:** up to 10,000 spectators

**Boxing matches:** 16,000 spectators

**Curtains can be installed at the tracks for music and other events:** capacity varies from 3,000 to 13,000 spectators.

**Events with seats on the tracks:** 13,000 spectators (the telescopic stands can convert the entire area into a huge stage)

**Events with the public standing at the tracks:** capacity for approximately 18,000 spectators.

Multi-functional facilities

providing easy access to all citizens, and focusing on their comfort. This means that spectators will be able to enjoy a fully air-conditioned pavilion that is safe, and accessible by people with any type of disability. New façades were also built in Goya and Fuente del Berro Streets,

and, as a security measure, four towers placed at each corner of the pavilion makes it possible to quickly evacuate the building in the event of any emergency. There are also three underground parking facilities for approximately 867 vehicles, most of these reserved for the public. ■



## Glorieta de Cuatro Caminos tunnel project completed in Madrid

**F**CC, in a 50% joint venture with another company in the sector, completed work on the Glorieta de Cuatro Caminos (Madrid) project that connects Reina Victoria and Raimundo Fernández Villaverde streets. This project, which commenced on October 2003, represents an investment of 25.7 million euros.

The new underground comprises two twin separate tunnels each 540 metres long, 220 of which are access ramps, 215 a false tunnel, and 105 a mine tunnel. Tunnels have two 3.3 metre wide lanes in each direction, and 0.5 metre wide lateral sidewalks.

The project included the construction of 900 metres of service galleries, the dismantling of 154 metres of the platform that

### TECHNICAL TEAM

**HEAD OF PROJECT:**  
Carlos Ramírez Gómez-Ojero.

**HEAD OF PRODUCTION:**  
Jesús del Blanco González.

**HEAD OF THE TECHNICAL OFFICE:**  
Carlos Ramiro Díaz.

**SUPERVISOR:**  
Fernando García González.

was formerly used as an overpass, the movement of 103,000 m<sup>3</sup> of land, and the use of more than 34,000 m<sup>3</sup> of concrete and 2.8 million tons of steel.

In addition, FCC was in charge of the revamping and landscaping of the adjoining area and designed a boulevard measuring more than 1,300 m<sup>2</sup> for the enjoyment of the community.

### STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY

Conservación y Sistemas, S.A., an FCC Group subsidiary, designed and implemented a control system for the Cuatro Caminos tunnel supported by the advanced AVANZA/Túnel platform built on latest generation technologies. AVANZA/Túnel, a modular system, features all the major systems for tunnel control and surveillance. Developed according to the most recently implemented regulations, such as the 2004/54 European Directive, the system incorporates automatic devices for ventilation, lighting, and fire control, as well as an advanced electronic operations manual.

The tunnels feature the most modern technologies and stringent safety equipment. Both tunnels are interconnected by 100 metre-long emergency exits and feature a control and communications centre, a closed TV circuit, automatic equipment to detect any incidences, variable signalling devices as well as fire control and extinguishing equipment. ■



## The stretch of the **Castilla Motorway** between **Martín de Yeltes** and **Aldehuela de la Bóveda** opened for traffic



**F**CC built the Aldehuela de Bóveda-Martín de Yeltes stretch of the Castilla Motorway that runs through the province of Salamanca. The 25.4 km long highway with more than 15.1 km of side roads represents an investment of 49.89 million euros. The highway section comprises two seven-metre wide carriageways with 2.5 metre wide exterior hard shoulders, 1 metre wide interior hard shoulders, and a 12 metre wide median. The project also includes four intersections in Aldehuela de la Bóveda,

### TECHNICAL TEAM

#### DEPARTMENT MANAGER:

Fernando Flórez Tejado.

#### HEAD OF PROJECT:

José María Quintanilla García.

#### HEAD OF PRODUCTION:

Jesús Manuel Rodríguez Martín.

#### GENERAL SUPERVISOR:

Olegario Martínez/Lorenzo Sánchez.

Rodasviejas, La Fuente de San Esteban, and Martín de Yeltes. There are six over passes along the stretch, thirteen underpasses, a 40.7 metre long viaduct over the Huebra River, and a rest area.

The route, designed for up to 120 km/h driving speed, has a minimum radius and 1,000 metres and a maximum 2.5% slope. It also includes 15 Marco-type drainage works and 33 1.8 metre diameter concrete tubes.

The new stretch between Salamanca and Ciudad Rodrigo greatly improves road traffic conditions between Spain and Portugal. ■

## First stone placed at the enlargement of the **SOC** headquarters

**T**he first stone was placed for the enlargement project for the building housing the Spanish Olympic Committee (SOC), to be named the Alfredo Goyeneche Pavilion. The architect who signed this new project is Rafael de la Hoz, also responsible for the original design of this building, built by FCC ten years ago when Carlos Ferrer Salat was the president of this committee. Presiding this ceremony marking the start of this new project was José María Echevarría, the current SOC president, as well as various members of several Olympic federations.



The current SOC headquarters will be enlarged with the addition of a rectangular 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> adjacent pavilion with a basement and ground level floor. The project calls for a hall accommodating 300 people, two multi-functional halls for training courses, and a gymnasium. Some of the current halls in the building will be converted into administrative offices. ■

## Work on the **Murcia** Tourism Training School

**O**n 16 February, the first stone was placed for the construction of the new tourism school in Murcia. This project was put out to tender by the Organismo Región de Murcia Turística, an entity under Murcia Autonomous Community's Tourism Department.

The President of the Murcia Autonomous Community, Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, and the Councillor of Tourism, José Pablo Ruiz Abellán, were among those attending this event.

The new 6,469 m<sup>2</sup> centre comprises two adjacent buildings. The main building will have a basement plus another three floors that will house classrooms, kitchens, and a restaurant. ■



## Esther Koplowitz awarded Barcelona's Coat of Arms

**E**sther Koplowitz was given the Coat of Arms of the City of Barcelona by the city's mayor, Juan Clos, in recognition of the social work carried out by the Fundación Ayuda al Desvalido. Her three daughters, Esther, Alicia, and Carmen, and her husband, Fernando Falcó, Marquis de Cubas, were with her at this private ceremony held last 11 January at the Albéniz Palace in Barcelona's City Hall. ■



ESTHER KOPLowitz awarded Barcelona's Coat of Arms by the city's mayor.

## Collaboration agreement with the Carolina Foundation

**T**he III Higher Course on "Environmental Management Policies and Instruments" was held at the San Pablo-CEU Institute for European Studies in the first months of the year following the agreement reached by the Carolina Foundation and FCC.

Fifteen environmental studies scholarships were awarded to qualified students from Latin American countries following a long selection process.

The key objective of these courses is to train current and future public and private managers in Latin American countries on all environment-related matters.

The Carolina Foundation was created at the initiative of the Spanish Government at the end of 2000 to foster international cultural, educational, and scientific cooperation between Spain and the rest of the world, particularly Latin America. His Majesty King Juan Carlos is the Honorary Chairman, with the other ex-officio members including the President of the Government, the two vice-presidents, and Fernando Falcó as the FCC representative. ■

## Puente de Alcántara International Award

**T**he San Benito de Alcántara Foundation, in a ceremony held on 12 January, awarded the 7th International Puente de Alcántara Prize to the Northeast Highway, for the 53 km-long Villafranca del Bierzo (León)-Creixal (Lugo) stretch through Piedrafita, which includes 41 viaducts and 6 tunnels.

Jesús Medina Ocaña, the foundation's chairman, handed the award to Magdalena Álvarez, the Xunta de Galicia, and FCC as the company responsible for building the award-winning project.

The award ceremony was held in the Arts Circle building in Lugo. Those attending this event included the city's mayor, José López Orozco, the chairman of the foundation's advisory council, Iñigo de Oriol, the second vice-chairman and councillor for the Environment in the Xunta de Galicia, José Manuel Barreiro Fernández, as well the president of FCC Construcción, José Mayor Oreja, representing those responsible for building this infrastructure.

The difficult terrain in the Piedrafita mountain pass required enormously complex work. The project's access roads, road safety, its full integration with the environment and the landscape, as well as the measures taken to protect the hydrological system the ecosystem, fauna, and the historic wealth, contribute to the social and economic welfare of this region. ■

