



PHOTO OF THE MONTH GENERAL ARCHIVE OF SIMANCAS

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- Inauguration of the General Archive of Simancas
- Ribbon cutting at Cojutepeque Hospital in El Salvador
- Cornerstone laid at the ONCE Educational Resource Centre in Madrid

CSR

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Other contracts won

- Retrofitting of the railway line section between Castellbisbal and Papiol Mollet, Barcelona, for the Ministry of Public Works' Directorate-General of Railways, for 74.4 million euro.
- Bid for the new País Vasco railway system. Section between Ordizia and Itsasondo, Guipúzcoa, for the Basque Government, for 50,5 million euro.
- Instrumentation, retrofitting and expansion of fuel facilities to meet ATEX standards at the air base in San Javier, Murcia, for AENA, for 11,3 million euro.
- Infrastructure for a 100-MW photovoltaic solar farm in Sierrasita, Córdoba, for Sky Global Solar, for 19.4 million euro.
- 100 homes in Plaza de Europa, in Hospitalet de Llobregat, Barcelona, for Cogesa.

Outstanding jobs

- Fomento 2007 Awards

ALPINE

- ALPINE will anchor the New Madrid Museum of Royal Collections
- ALPINE wins the Berlin Airport rail link



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Contract awards

FCC to build and operate Madrid motorway M-404

A 453-million-euro investment.



The Madrid Regional Government has awarded the contract to build, finance and operate the new M-404 motorway in Madrid to Global Via, which is owned in equal shares by FCC and Caja Madrid. The investment is worth 453 million euro.

The shadow-toll concession is for 30 years and the road will take 18 months to build.

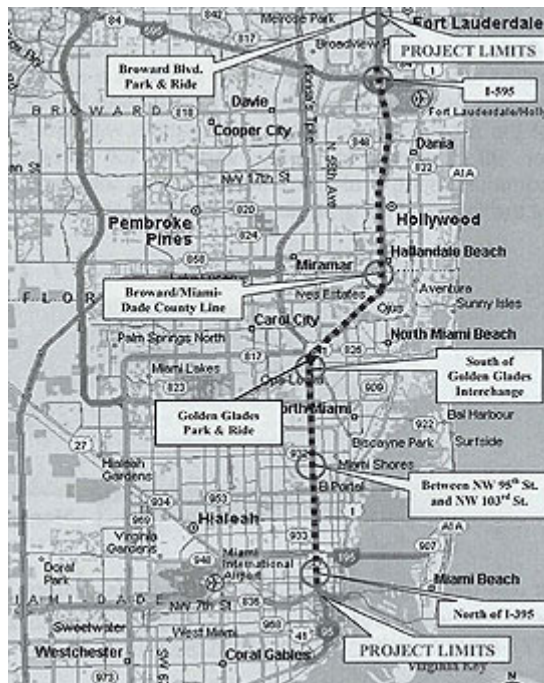
Motorway M-404 is part of the regional Transport and Infrastructure Department's ambitious REDSUR project.

The section involved has got 27 kilometres of dual carriageway running between the M-407 in Griñón and the M-307 in Ciempozuelos.

The new double-wide M-404 will make for smoother connections and better traffic safety for the southern Madrid towns of Serranillos, Cubas de la Sagra, Torrejón de Velasco, Torrejón de la Calzada, Valdemoro and Griñón.

The project's objective is to increase traffic capacity, eliminate the points of conflict on the existing road, eliminate level crossings and turn the motorway into a backbone for the southern Madrid area.

FCC wins highway job in Miami



FCC Construcción has arrived in the US market, with a contract in hand to work on highway I-95 in Miami. The job, which is worth €81.8 million, will be a total of 38.62 kilometres long.

The I-95 has currently got four lanes in each direction (five in the merging sections), plus one HOV (high-occupancy vehicle) lane in each direction.

The job consists in adding yet another lane in each direction, for a total of two separate HOV lanes, in addition to providing the ITS (Intelligent Transportation System) communications system and the toll systems. Access to these HOV lanes will be limited; they will be used exclusively by buses, ambulances, taxis and registered user vehicles. Other vehicles may use the HOV lanes after paying a toll, which will vary depending on the time of day.

The project is structured into two phases: Phase 1A includes the work on the northbound I-95, and Phase 1B includes the work on the southbound I-95..

Presentation of the National Underwater Archaeology Museum in Cartagena



At left, Councilman for Culture Pedro Alberto Cruz, with Culture Minister César Antonio Molina

This will be the first museum in Europe to be dedicated exclusively to underwater archaeology, and it is estimated that around 80,000 people will be visiting it each year.

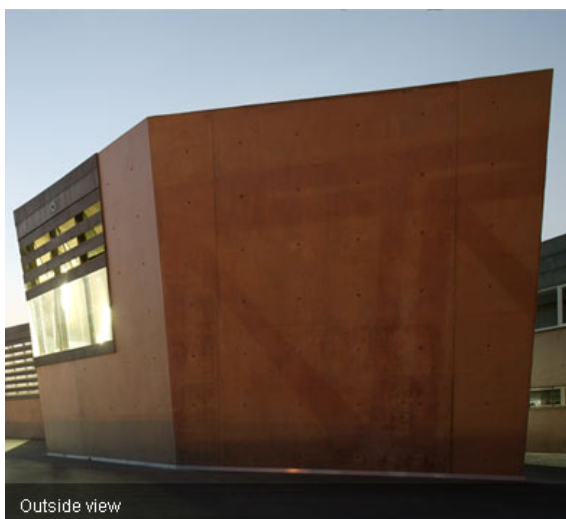
On 10th January Minister of Culture César Antonio Molina presented the new National Underwater Archaeology Museum (Arqua), located on Alfonso XII wharf and built by FCC.

The project, designed by Guillermo Vázquez Consuegra, had a budget totalling 16,497 million euro between the construction of the building and the museographic project in progress.

The new museum has got two buildings joined by an underground passage and a total of 6,000 square metres of floor space. It will be housing over 1,000 submerged pieces of Spain's cultural heritage. In addition, it has been equipped with the latest technology in interactive videos and displays to help bring visitors closer to their underwater cultural heritage, and there are classrooms prepared for teaching and research.

BASIC INFORMATION
Job name
New Headquarters for the National Marine Archaeology Museum and National Centre for Underwater Research
Developer/Owner
Ministry of Culture
Project architect
Guillermo Vázquez Consuegra
Architectural supervision team
Guillermo Vázquez Consuegra/Juan Lacasa Díaz/Enrique López Burló/Ramiro Laredo
Budget
16.497,517 €

SITE TEAM
Job construction manager
Miguel Angel Lorente Sánchez
Production chief
Guillermo Lora García
Technical Office chief
Jose Ramón Galiá Muñoz
Office staff
Francisco Navarro Warren/Alicia Sánchez Reinoso

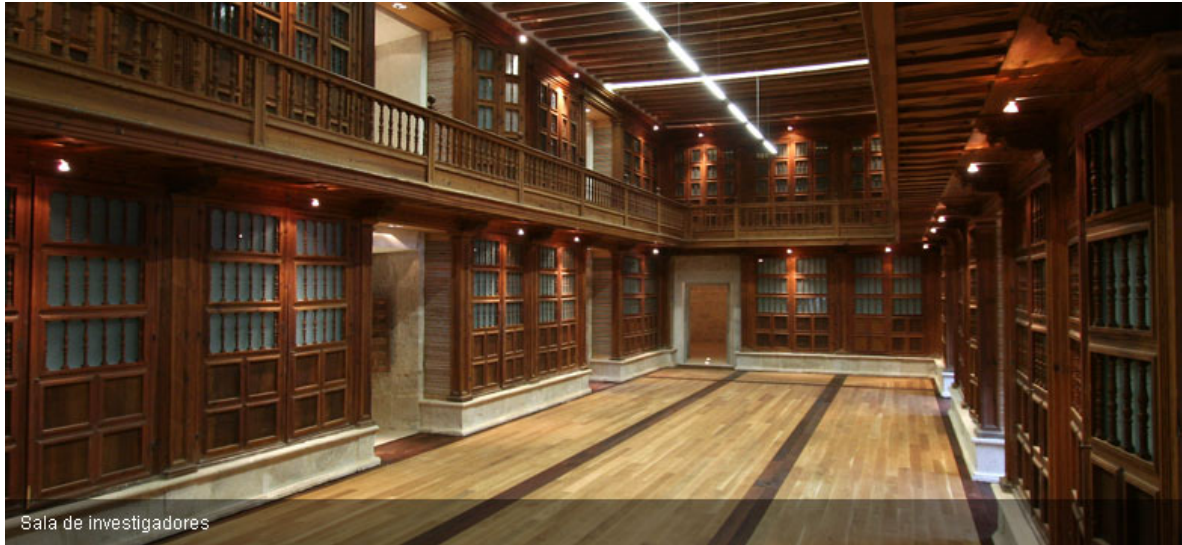


Outside view



Inside view

Inauguration of the General Archive of Simancas



The alterations and expansion of the General Archive of Simancas began in 2003 and have had a budget of 11.6 million euro.

On 14th January Minister of Culture César Antonio Molina inaugurated the new facilities of the General Archive of Simancas, which have been enlarged and refurbished by FCC Construcción.

The work on the castle building has solved the problems of circulation amongst the different rooms, enlarged the space available for records, restored the researchers' rooms and retrofitted the infrastructure with new technologies. A visitor welcome annex has also been built and work has been done on the former moat, which is now a path for strollers to enjoy.

FCC Construcción has published a book on the historical evolution of this unique building and its alterations and expansion.

BASIC INFORMATION
Job name
Refurbishment of the General Archive of Simancas
Developer/Owner
Ministry of Culture (Infrastructure and Equipment Managerial Office)
Project architect
Mario Pérez Fernández
Budget
11, 6 million euro

SITE TEAM
Job construction managers
Luis Hernández Blanco/Ignacio Rodríguez de Guzmán Cantalapiedra
Department head
Sergio Ramos Alonso
Production chief
Ignacio Rodríguez
Office staff
José Franco Carpio/Carmen Ollero Cuesta

The president of El Salvador opens the New Cojutepeque Hospital



In the centre, wearing a blue shirt, President Elías Antonio Saca during his visit to the facilities

The new hospital, built by FCC Construcción’s subsidiary M&S, was finished in 16 months.

In December of last year the president of the Republic of El Salvador, Elías Antonio Saca, opened the New Cojutepeque Hospital, located 33 kilometres east of the country’s capital, San Salvador.

The president was accompanied on his visit by the minister of health, Guillermo Maza, the director of the hospital construction plan, Rhina de Ortiz, and the ambassador of Spain in El Salvador, Jorge Hevia, plus other authorities.

The new infrastructure will provide healthcare for a population of 196,413 people. It has 124 beds and specialised health service in internal medicine, paediatric and gynaecological/obstetrical surgery, diagnostic imaging, clinical laboratory services, emergency medicine and outpatient service.



Cojutepeque Hospital



Cojutepeque Hospital

Cornerstone laid at the ONCE Educational Resource Centre in Madrid



The mayor of Madrid during his speech

FCC Construcción will be doing the project, with a 22-million-euro budget and a 20-month completion period.

Madrid Mayor Alberto Ruiz Gallardón, the secretary for social services, families and disabilities, Amparo Valcarce, ONCE President Miguel Carballada Piñeiro and FCC Construcción President José Mayor Oreja laid the first stone for the ONCE's new Educational Resource Centre in Madrid on 17th January.

The building, which FCC will be raising in 20 months for 22 million euros, has got a total area of 22,113.46 square metres. It has four above-ground floors and a basement for parking and maintenance workshops. The L shape of the building reflects the centre's three main uses, as a home, as a school and as a sport facility.

One of the project's unique features is its commitment to fully accessible spaces, with colours and textures that can benefit visually challenged students.

The new centre, which has the capacity to house over 130 blind and sight-deficient children, will be an important place for over 2,500 students from all over the central peninsula (Madrid, Castilla-León, Castilla-La Mancha, País Vasco, Navarra and the Canary Islands). The Madrid school has got 262 specialised professionals on its roster (teachers, technicians, social workers, education specialists, psychologists, special education specialists, technology instructors and the rest of the staff needed to conduct the centre's daily activity).



2007 Fomento Quality Awards

On the 10th December last the 2007 Fomento Quality Awards and the 2007 Fomento Innovation Award were handed out. FCC Construcción gives these awards to the year's most important jobs. The decision this time around was quite tough; the prize-winners were voted on secretly and chosen unanimously from amongst 11 candidate projects.

The 2007 Fomento Quality Award for Building went to the New Seat for the Castilla y León Parliament, zone 8, Castilla-León Building Office, and the Award for Civil Works went to the Pamplona-Logroño Dual Carriageway, Autovía del Camino, zone 7, Aragón Navarra and La Rioja Office.

The 2007 Fomento Innovation Award was given *ex aequo* to the study on Low-Reflection Caissons for Wharves and Seawalls, by the Corporate Management for Technical Services, and the Platform Enlargement and New Vestibule at Sol Station, line 3, by the Transport Office. An honourable mention was also given to the BPV-Betonfilterpress Blüten "Weicher Betone" job (metering equipment to evaluate the segregation of fresh cement in special foundations) by ALPINE .

The Prize-winning Works

New Seat for the Castilla y León Parliament in Valladolid



The new parliamentary seat, built under a tender announced by the Castilla y León Council, lies in the expanding developed area of Valladolid known as Villa del Prado, with its main façade looking out over the Avenida de Salamanca, which is the corridor through the city and Valladolid's gateway to the south. The southern face of the building opens onto a recently built square, the Plaza de las Cortes.

The project was designed by Granada architect Ramón Fernández Alonso and directed under the supervision of architects Leopoldo Cortejoso and Juan Coronado, who live in Valladolid themselves.

The 170-metre-long, 50-metre-wide building comprises four volumes and has a floor area of 30,000 m².

The first volume, which has a rectangular floor plan, features three floors and a white concrete front. Horizontal designs clearly predominate in this volume's geometry, accentuated only by the volume housing the parliamentary chamber. The second volume is the library, whose horizontal slats of aluminium and glass protect the building from exposure to the sun.

The third volume holds the parliamentary chamber and constitutes the building's main section. From the main façade it looks like a huge glass cube, 29x28 metres on the bottom and 28.40 metres tall. Inside two spaces can be found, a lower space, where parliamentary activity takes place, and an upper space that, like a huge lamp, shines daylight into the chamber, which is made entirely of alabaster. The outside face has been designed in silk-screened glass using digitalised alabaster images. The fourth volume is a glass construction with a two-story curtain wall standing 150 metres long and 10 metres tall.

BASIC INFORMATION

Job name: New Seat of the Castilla y León Parliament in Valladolid
Developer/Owner: Castilla y León Parliament
Budget: 67.8 million euro
Completion period: 37 months

TEAM

Manager, Zone VIII: Javier Lázaro Estarta
Manager, Castilla y León Construction Office: Florentino Rodríguez Palazuelo
Department head: Javier Courel Martínez
Job construction manager: Francisco Javier García Delgado
Facility department head: Juan Carlos Herrera Merino
Production chief: Marcos Láiz Navarro
Office staff head: Juan Carlos Gacho García
Foreman: Vicente Pascual González/Alberto Campillo
Fuello/Raimundo Bernal Martín/Clemencia Hernández Gutiérrez
Draughtsman: Fernando Lázaro Sordo

Pamplona-Logroño Dual Carriageway, Autovía del Camino



The Pamplona-Logroño Dual Carriageway is the greatest civil works project in road infrastructure in all of Navarre. The road has been contracted for and managed as a shadow toll concession, whose length (70 kilometres) and investment (300 million euro) make it one of Spain's biggest shadow-toll projects.

Its function is to unite Navarre with the upper Ebro River valley, connecting the cities of Pamplona and Logroño and thus directly benefiting approximately 450,000 people. It calls for 19 junctions and improvements in 16 local roads that permeate and draw together the entire area of influence of this infrastructure.

The road's design has been conceived in two well-differentiated phases:

- Pamplona to Estella.

There are two landmark points in this section:

- Túnel del Perdón, a 1,182-metre-long tunnel.
- Bridge over the Arga River at Puente La Reina, designed by Navarran engineer Javier Manterola. The bridge is 300 metres long and a genuine symbol of the road.

- Estella to the Viana junction.

This section provides connections to the towns of Estella, Los Arcos and Viana and will in future hook up with the entire national infrastructure system in Logroño.

One of the project's most outstanding points is a special bit of work doubling the number of lanes on a hyperstatic bridge by Javier Manterola.

BASIC INFORMATION

Job name: Pamplona-Logroño Dual Carriageway (Autovía del Camino)
Developer/Owner: Government of Navarre, Department of Public Works, Transport and Communications
Budget: €300 M

TEAM

Manager, Zone VII: Antonio Pérez Gil
Office manager, Aragón, Navarra and Rioja: Roberto Monteagudo Fernández
Job construction manager, sections 2 and 3: José Antonio Carriles García
Job construction manager, section 4: Ángel Lanusse Senderos
Production chief, Arga Bridge and road upkeep: Álvaro Senador-Gómez Lázaro
Production chief, drainage and local roads: Luis Matallana Sanfilippo
Production chief, structures, kilometre 0 to 11: Pedro León Jiménez
Production chief, structures, kilometre 12 to 23: Ignacio Hernández Marqués

Low-Reflection Caissons for Wharves and Seawalls



Right now caisson work is the most frequent type of major marine construction done in Spain. Caissons form vertical structures with a high wave-reflection capacity. Wave reflection causes trouble at wharves, because it creates undesired rocking in boats, both in berthing and unberthing manoeuvres and during passenger and goods loading and unloading operations.

This R&D&I project was promoted so that FCC Construcción could have its own technology available for low-reflection solutions.

The physical characteristics of the phenomenon and the complexity of the interaction between waves and structure were taken into consideration. The project had an essentially experimental component, in addition to taking account of the advisability of the results' being backed by a centre of accredited scientific and technical solvency and indubitable independence. The option chosen to implement the project was to draw up a cooperation agreement with CEDEX, the Ministry of Public Works' Centre of Public Works Studies and Experimentation.

The novelty of the solution that was finally developed resides in its excellent ability to reduce reflections off the vertical surface throughout a wide interval of periods that encompasses almost all the relevant situations that can occur in harbours, not only in Spain but all throughout the world. This excellent response is based on the coexistence of three different reflection-damping mechanisms: misalignment of the reflected wave's phases, caused by the grooves in the surface; dissipation by turbulence in lateral expansion in the first line of chambers; and dissipation by interference with the fall of the water stored in the upper chambers of the second row.

This development, which has already been patented, has won a number of tenders, the largest by volume being the new Granadilla Harbour on the island of Tenerife, and the method will certainly stand at the core of major applications in future.

TEAM

Technical manager: José Luis Álvarez Poyatos

Machinery manager: Juan Antonio Muro Murillo

Technical Service manager: Francisco Esteban Lefler

Marine Works Service manager: Rafael Llamas Bao

Technical Service: Víctor Rey Romero

Dept. Head, Facilities and Parks Service, Technical Services: José Arévalo Cuadros

Facilities and Parks Service, Technical Services: Miguel Ángel Martín Nieto

Platform Enlargement and New Vestibule at Sol Station, Line 3



This job was part of the overall push for upgrades throughout all the stations on line 3 of the Madrid underground system, where the fundamental issue was to increase station length from the 60 metres each station used to measure to the 90 metres they all measure now, so as to increase the line's capacity by 50%. Line 3 can therefore now absorb the increase in passengers caused by its eight-kilometre extension to Villaverde, which FCC has also built.

The big innovation is that old methods for shoring up buildings using bracing or temporary structures to match anticipated stresses but without monitoring settling have been replaced by a more advanced-technology system that gives instant information on strains, immediate warning for the people in charge and, most important of all, the possibility of correcting any settling through the use of hydraulic jacks.

The new construction system has made works execution extremely safe, both for site workers and for the users of the affected buildings and travellers.

The importance of the innovation and its possibilities of use in future works are very high, because construction is very often done in urban areas, especially in the older sections of cities and in building construction or refurbishment where party walls and several basements are involved, where the foundations of inhabited buildings have got to be reinforced, with the attendant risk. The system for the continuous auscultation of the movements of these buildings, plus the establishment of alarm thresholds, which permit sets of hydraulic jacks to be set in motion to correct any detected strain, offer total safety in works execution.

TEAM

Manager, Zone IX: Avelino Acero Díaz
Manager, Transport Office: Alejandro Cisneros Müller
Assistant manager, Transport Office: Ricardo Gil Edo
Construction Dept. head: Juan Girón Garrido
Quality Dept. head: Antonio Rodrigo Labrador
Job construction manager: Víctor Llamazares Fernández
Foreman: Luis León Albújar
Structure/Technical Services: Igor San Dámaso Martín
Manager, BBR Technical Services: José Manuel Illescas Villa
Structure/Technical Services: Cristina Cabezas Moreno

“BPV-Betonfilterpress Blüten Weicher Betone” (metering equipment to evaluate the segregation of fresh cement in special foundations) by ALPINE.

This innovation was studied during the construction of the curtain wall and perforated piles in a Vienna building. The system allows tests to be made much faster at the site where construction is going on.

TEAM

Bautechnische Prüf und Versuchsanstalt: Thomas Eisenhut
Grund, Pfahl und Sonderbau: Klaus Breit
Grund, Pfahl und Sonderbau: Alexander Pekarek

FCC Construcción has displayed the Report of Progress of the World-wide Pact of United Nations (GLOBAL COMPACT)



FFCC Construcción has released its *2006 Progress Report* in the ASEPAM-recommended format, to describe the activities, results and objectives FCC has to show for each of the Ten Principles of the Global Compact.

This is a public report and it is available at the web page run by ASEPAM, the Spanish World Compact Association, www.pactomundial.org. In addition to publishing its annual report, FCC Construcción has ratified its commitment to adhere voluntarily to the World Compact.

FFCC Construcción joined the United Nations World Compact in 2004. As a founding member of ASEPAM, it has been participating in the Association's activities since the start, in order to share the good practices that foster the introduction of the Ten Principles of the World Compact.

The FCC Group launches the Family Plan for the integration of the disabled



FCC and the Adecco Foundation, after signing a cooperation agreement for joint activities aimed at fostering better occupational and social integration for people with disabilities, are now launching the Family Plan.

Dependent relatives of the first degree (children, spouses or parents of working age) with a certified disability of 33% or more may participate in the plan.

The objective of this project is to provide support to facilitate and achieve real integration into the occupational and social world for FCC employee family members who have some kind of disability.

FCC Construcción also signed an agreement with the Adecco Foundation for the occupational integration of the disabled in May 2007.

News

H.M. Queen Sofía decorates Esther Koplowitz with the Gold Cross of Social Solidarity



H.M. Queen Sofía and the minister of labour, Jesús Caldera, greet Esther Koplowitz

H.M. Queen Sofía decorated Esther Koplowitz with the Gold Cross of the Civil Order of Social Solidarity in a ceremony held on 23rd January at La Zarzuela Palace.

The ceremony was attended by authorities including Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Jesús Caldera and Secretary of State for Social Services Amparo Valcarce.



Elderly nursing Home in Collado Villalba, Madrid

Esther Koplowitz was accompanied by her family and by the director of the Royal Academy of History, Gonzalo Anes.

The Civil Order of Social Solidarity is granted in recognition of extraordinary distinction in promoting or performing activities and services related with social action that have had an impact that benefits social well-being. The distinction, given by the minister of labour, acknowledges Esther Koplowitz's work for society's most disadvantaged members, especially elderly people and mentally disabled people who have no resources of their own.

The Esther Koplowitz Foundation, a charity and social organisation created in the early 90's, runs

solely and exclusively on funds contributed by its president, who has focused on building and outfitting homes for the destitute elderly and the mentally disabled. Once the homes are outfitted, they are donated to the different administrations.

Such is the case of the homes for the elderly that the Esther Koplowitz Foundation has built in Collado Villalba, province of Madrid, and in Barcelona, and the home for the severely mentally disabled built and donated to the city of Valencia. The Esther Koplowitz Foundation is currently involved in promoting a home for the destitute elderly in Valladolid and another for mentally disabled elderly persons in the city of Valencia.

Another of the Foundation's major areas of action seeks to favour research and provide medical equipment. Along these lines, the Foundation recently donated a Da Vinci robot, one of only two such robots existing in Spain, to Hospital Clínico San Carlos in Madrid, thus setting the already-prestigious hospital in the vanguard of robotic surgery.

The schedule for the upcoming months includes the laying of the first stone of the Esther Koplowitz Biomedical Research Centre (CIBEK) in Barcelona, a centre that will house close to 400 researchers and one of the most important efforts of patronage in biomedical research in Europe (15 million euro), slated to go into operation in 2010.

With all these projects, the Esther Koplowitz Foundation will soon tally a total of 82 million euro contributed to help society's most needy and to advance scientific development in Spain.



Fort Pienc elderly nursing home in Barcelona

In recognition of her devotion to these causes, in July 2001 the Council of Ministers resolved to grant Esther Koplowitz the Great Cross of the Order of Civil Merit for her promotion of social work. Together with this distinction, Esther Koplowitz has found her efforts acknowledged by receipt of distinctions such as the Silver Cross of the Order of Merit of the Civil Guard Corps; the Shield of the City of Barcelona; the title of Adoptive Daughter of the city of Valencia and the Gold Medal of the Royal Academy of History for her work promoting culture inside and outside FCC.

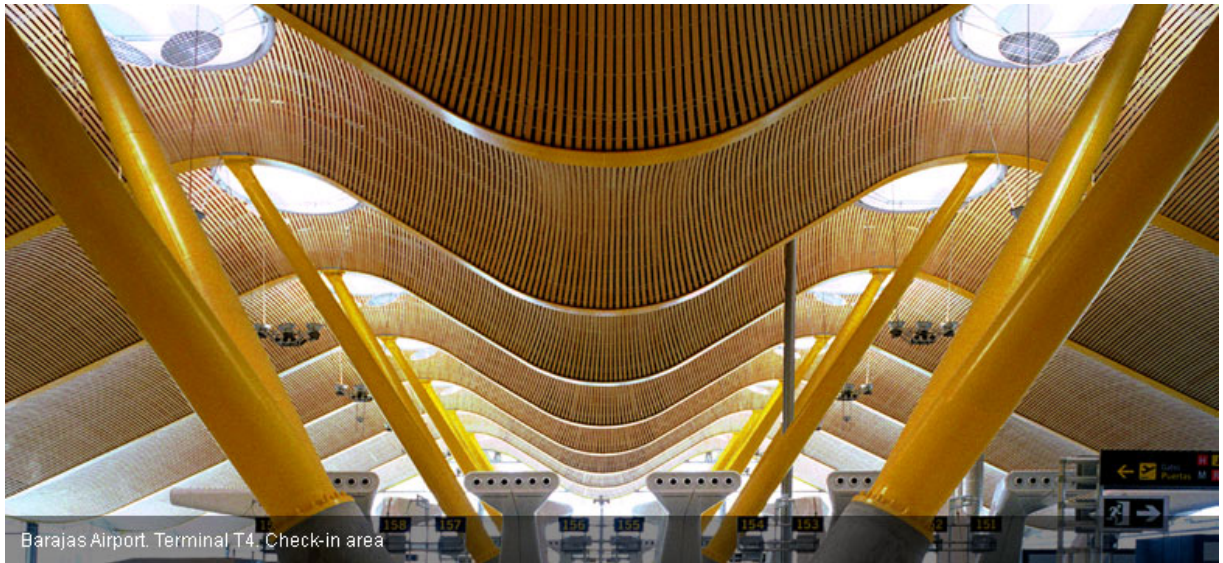
In early 2007 the Adecco Foundation granted the Esther Koplowitz Foundation its Annual Acknowledgement Award for work done to benefit the most disadvantaged social collectives.

In September of last year Esther Koplowitz received the Business Leader of the Year award from the Chamber of Commerce of Spain in the USA, for her entrepreneurial work at the head of FCC and her social work to help the needy. Amongst other associations and organisations that her foundation helps are H.M. Queen Sofía Foundation's Project Alzheimer, Caritas, Horizontes Abiertos, Mensajeros de la Paz, Huérfanos de la Policía (the police orphans' association), Huérfanos de la Guardia Civil (the Civil Guard orphans' association) and Ayuda a las Víctimas del Terrorismo (the association to aid the victims of terrorism).



La nostra Casa, mentally disabled nursing home in Valencia

FCC Construcción receives the International Alcántara Bridge Prize



Barajas Airport. Terminal T4. Check-in area

Madrid Barajas Airport Terminal T4 wins

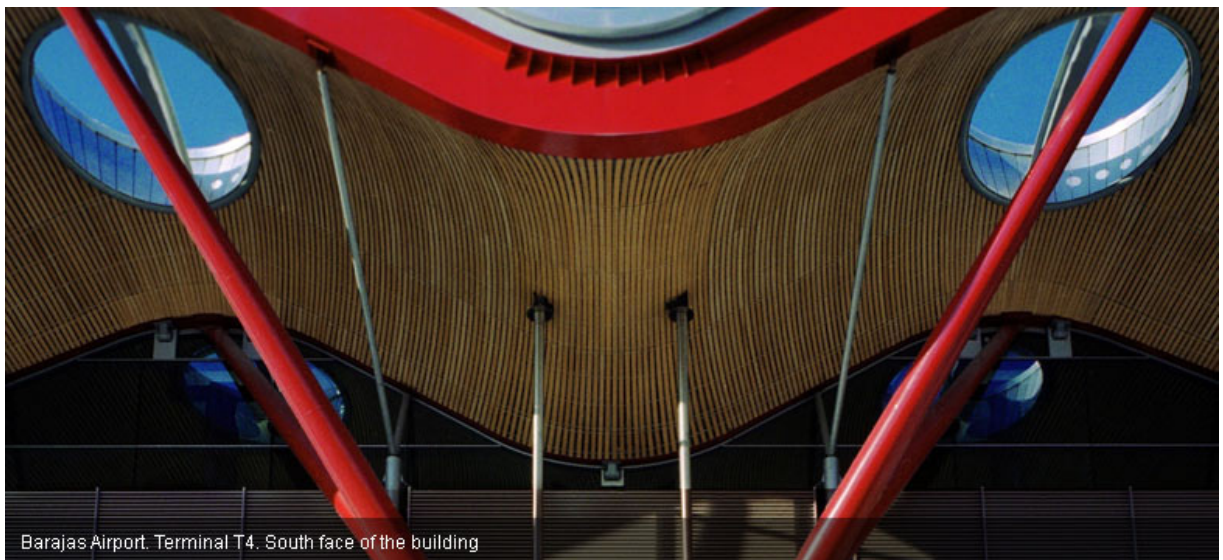
The Alcántara Bridge International Prize, instituted by the San Benito de Alcántara Foundation, now in its tenth round, has been given to Madrid Barajas Airport Terminal T4, a project led by FCC Construcción. The prize for Latin America went to the Irapé Hydroelectric Power Project in Minas Gerais, Brazil.

The Alcántara Bridge prize recognises the significance of this unique piece of work, which was one of the largest projects done in Europe.

With the number of air connections growing steadily, AENA (Spanish Airports and Air Navigation) developed the Barajas Plan. This scheme envisaged the creation of two new runways, a connection hub for public and private transport and the construction of a new terminal area including three buildings, the New Terminal Building (NET, built by FCC), the Satellite building and the Car Park.

This biennial prize is meant to distinguish the Latin-American public works project that, in the jury's opinion, has the greatest cultural, technological, aesthetic, functional and social importance, taking account also of technical and aesthetic quality and the degree of perfection attained in project execution. The prize is shared by Developer, the designers and builders of the award-winning project.

The January 2008 issue of *Obras Públicas* magazine contains a monograph with all the information on the Tenth Alcántara Bridge Prize, the award-winning projects and the candidates.



Barajas Airport. Terminal T4. South face of the building

Montajes Gavis, S.A., changes its name to DENE0 Energía e Infraestructuras, S.A.



As part of its new era as a member of the FCC Group, Montajes Gavis, S.A., has announced a change of name; from now on the company will be called DENE0 Energía e Infraestructuras, S.A.

DENE0 contains part of the structure of the former Montajes Gavis, S.A., plus the original company's over-twenty-five years' experience in installing overhead contact power lines, signalling and communications systems for railways, as well as low-, medium- and high-voltage power distribution systems and networks.

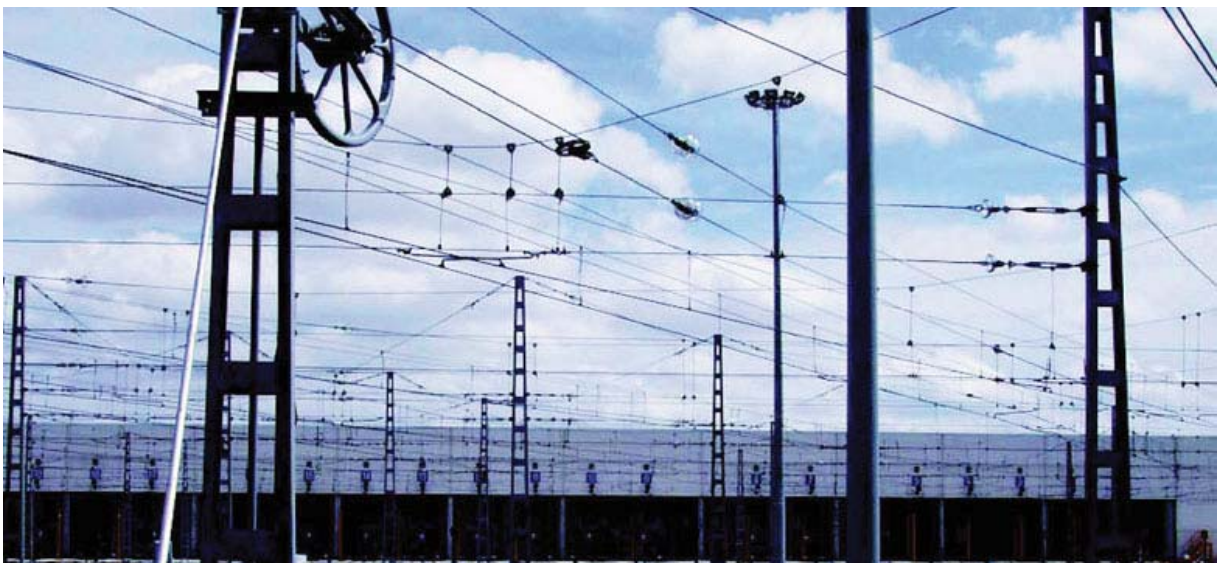
DENE0 embodies one of the FCC Group's most important commitments for 2008, because of its powerful economic and human capital and its high degree of business specialisation, and also because it is serious about sustainability, engaging in research for new, alternative ways of creating energy.

The new company is stepping up to bat at a key time for the development of the power industry and civil infrastructure, maintaining and boosting its traditional business in the railway sector and power distribution, and setting up fresh objectives for itself in the development of sustainable, environmentally friendly energy and finding energy solutions for large-scale civil works.

Barcelona Metro Line 4 extension project awarded

GISA, the company that manages Catalan railway infrastructure, has awarded DENE0 the project to extend and upgrade the power supply to Barcelona Metro Line 4. The project also includes a remodelling of the Maragall, Verdaguer and Verneda substations and what is known as the "Rail Triangle".

The contract is budgeted as worth 22.1 million euro and has a 29-month completion period.



With us

Interview to José Enrique Bofill de la Cierva, Corporate Manager of FCC Construction's Technical Services

For the Fifth Civil Engineering Congress held in Seville from the 26th to the 28th November, Arquisur published an interview with Jose Enrique Bofill de la Cierva, corporate manager of FCC Construction's Technical Services, where he spoke, amongst other topics, on FCC Construcción's contribution to the future of civil engineering.



In the centre, José Enrique Bofill during the Fifth Civil Engineering Congress

José Enrique Bofill de la Cierva
Civil engineer
Corporate Manager of FCC Construction's Technical Services.

You belong to a collective whose prestige is recognised the world over. Where do you think the keys to the future of civil engineering lie?

In my speech, which was necessarily quite short, I talked about two important things for Spanish civil engineering: internationalisation and greater dedication to technical specialisation.

Internationalisation, because the increase in Spanish companies' footprint abroad is spectacular; and greater dedication to technical matters, because companies not only need good managers; they need good technicians, too, both at the site and in the technical office. A civil engineer is prepared to work in management or in technical matters, and management is much more attractive for lots of engineers, but technical matters are equally necessary.

Another thing that civil engineering has got to do is integrate the environment as part of its function in planning, in projects and in works execution. Environmental specialists, biologists, chemists and so on may have to participate in jobs, but the engineer who is directing the project or the job has got to have a good mastery of the subject and regard the environment as a vital part what he has to do.

In your speech you gave the growth figures on the FCC Group's production abroad, which has shot up from 3 percent in 2004 to 38 percent in 2007. What are the countries where you are doing the most business?

I was talking about FCC Construcción, not the group. The group's figures are slightly different, 10% in 2004 and 36% in 2007.

Most of FCC Construcción's development is in central and eastern Europe, which account for 88% of its production abroad. Its business in central and northern America is increasing quickly, and the same in Ireland.

The group is also doing major business in the United Kingdom and in the United States.

Which of the group's business areas has contributed the most to this spectacular increase?

The group's diversification in Spain is also reflected abroad. The most important business areas are construction, city services, infrastructure concessions, water management and cement.

At the congress you have emphasized the need to explain major projects to society at large. What kinds of contributions is FCC Construcción making in this direction?

FCC Construcción puts a huge effort into communication. On its corporate web page it posts information on its major projects. It regularly produces videos and technical reports on its special projects. It periodically prints leaflets focusing on the most significant projects by specialities, such as dams, tunnels, bridges and so on. Each year it publishes either its Environmental Communiqué or its Corporate Responsibility Report, on an alternating schedule.

The FCC Group publishes a book each year at Christmas that's generally about one or more types of construction throughout the history of Spain. So, this year the book's called Lugares de Encuentro, "Meeting Places", and it's about harbours, railway stations and airports, describing from the very first Phoenician port settlements to the latest AVE stations and airport terminals.

What is the real situation in Spain, from your point of view, in terms of sustainable development and land occupation?

In Spain there are areas that have suffered serious environmental degradation as a consequence, but also as the origin, of economic development. But a very considerable part of Spanish land is protected. There are over five million hectares of protected natural spaces, and 25.8% of Spanish land belongs to the Natura 2000 network. This is a big treasure, but it also entails important sacrifices in terms of possible uses.

From the construction company, which is not a party to the planning stage, we at FCC Construcción see our contribution to sustainable development as being through the widespread introduction of good practices with regard to resource consumption, waste generation and so on. In connection with land occupation by construction and the construction-related facilities, we try to avoid it and restore areas that have been temporarily occupied, and we try to eliminate emissions that might pollute the soil, by preventing accidental spillage, setting up vats to hold hazardous wastes and substances and so on.

Over 750 engineers from all over the country have participated in this event. To wind up this interview, could you share with us your personal feeling about this encounter?

Unfortunately I could only be in Seville for the last day, and I couldn't attend the round table hosted by the presidents of the association because of the preparatory meeting for our own round table. From what I can gather from skimming through the papers, some interesting things have been said at the lectures and in the reports, but the media repercussion has not been very big.

Personally speaking, it's always very nice to run into colleagues you haven't seen for years.

ALPINE will anchor the New Madrid Museum of Royal Collections



The Royal Palace and Almudena Cathedral by night, Madrid

ALPINE is going to participate in the first phase of building for the Madrid Museum of Royal Collections, which was awarded to FCC. ALPINE will be doing the work to anchor the retaining wall that is in progress.

The new museum, which will house the royal collection of works of art, household goods, weapons, tapestries and other objects, will be raised in the centre of Madrid, between the Almudena Cathedral and the Royal Palace.

ALPINE wins the Berlin Airport rail link

ALPINE has won the contract to build the railway link to Berlin-Brandenburg International Airport, which will be finished in late 2011. The contract is for 63.6 million euro.

This link will facilitate regional and long-distance traffic connections in southern Berlin. The job includes the construction of six sections of underground track measuring a total of 2.5 kilometres long, three railway bridges and four highway bridges, plus the laying of some 33 kilometres of track.

It is calculated that 330,000 cubic metres of earth will be moved and 87,000 cubic metres of reinforced concrete and 12,000 tons of steel will be used for the job.