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Communication Network

News for the people of FCC

A great step forward towards the global FCC brand

Vidin-Calafat

A new bridge over the Danube joining two cultures

Disability and social-labour integration week at FCC

Bratislava, the backdrop of the Danube

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FCC organised its first Week for People with Disabilities and Labour Market Integration, in collaboration with the Adecco and the ONCE Foundations. Those who form part of FCC had the opportunity of participating at these events.

Week for the people with disabilities and labour market integration at FCC

The goal of this one-week event is to promote, among FCC stakeholders, an enriching and inclusive vision of people with disabilities and to actively encourage their integration into society, especially in terms of professional development, as well as improving their participation in daily life and their family situations.

Background

FCC's Corporate Responsibility and Human Resources areas maintain strong commitments to these issues and work on a day-to-day basis to achieve this integration and vision through company-wide implementation of their Equality and Diversity Policy and the 3rd Corporate Responsibility Master Plan.

FCC also works closely with organisations such as the Adecco Foundation, ONCE Foundation, and the Red Cross, as well as with public institutions, such as Spain's Ministry of Health and Equality. FCC maintains and promotes cooperation agreements with these organisations, and also participates in work programmes focused on labour market integration of people with disabilities and of groups at risk of social exclusion. The objective of the work carried out is to manage diversity to reinforce the bonds with the communities where FCC provides its services.

Activities

The activities during the week were organized at four venues, mainly due to logistics, to represent all FCC employees. These sites included the corporate buildings at Las Tablas and at Federico Salmón Street in Madrid; the Collado Villalba Retirement Home (Madrid) and the La Nostra Casa Home (Valencia) for people with disabilities, both of these facilities built and funded by the Esther Koplowitz Foundation and donated to the respective autonomous communities.

Scheduled events:

SemanaDiscapacidad.pdf

For further information:

Política de Igualdad y Diversidad.pdf
Campaña no te rindas nunca.pdf
Convenio Inserta Fundación Once FCC.pdf

Round-table discussions “Never give up”

The ONCE Foundation, in an event where everyone was able to participate, talked about trying to overcome the difficulties of suffering from any type of disability. The speech was given by Edurne Álvarez de Mon, a technician at the ONCE Foundation Inserta Program who is disabled and a good example of someone who has struggled to overcome difficulties, surpass barriers, and face personal and professional challenges.

FCC has been collaborating closely for several years with programs aimed at labour and social integration of people with disabilities, expanding its actions towards groups at the risk of being socially excluded. One of the key highlights of the week’s events was the involvement of specific individuals

who have set examples through their personal experiences and their success in overcoming these difficulties.

Link video:

https://www.noterindasnunca.org/

Family Program

The Family Program, entered into with the Adecco Foundation and the Inserta Plan with the ONCE Foundation, are two of the key tools used to develop the project for labour and social integration of people with disabilities. The company also collaborates with other organizations such as the Spanish Red Cross, the Exit Foundation, and the Ministry of Health and Equality.

We want to continue increasing value for the communities where we provide services, to their residents and to all who are part of FCC through programs and measures to encourage equality and respect for diversity.

Screening of the short film “The Butterfly Circus”

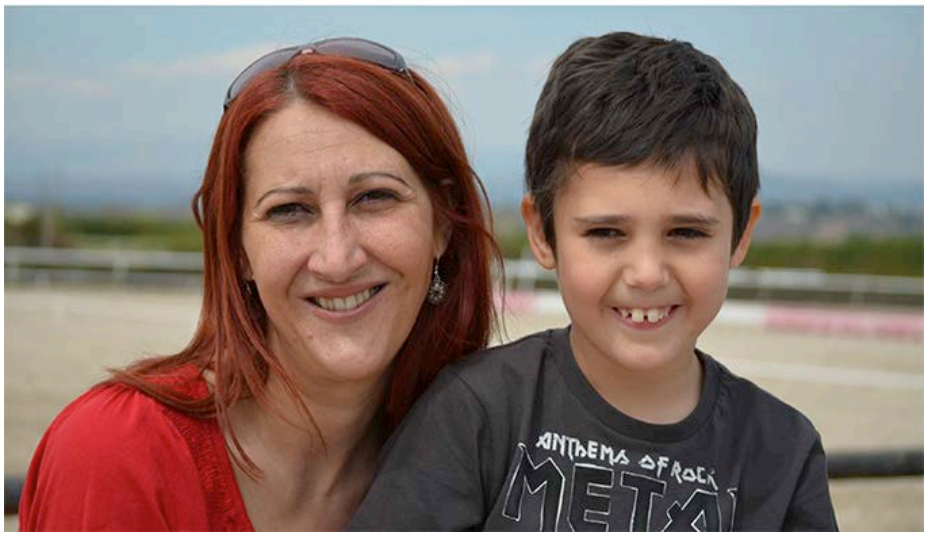
One of the week’s highlight was the screening of the short film, “The Butterfly Circus”,

Testimonies

Testimony of Sergio on the importance of family, one of the key pillars for the social and labour integration of people with disabilities. Sergio is one of the many individuals who have benefited from the Family Program of the Adecco Foundation for close family members of FCC employees who have some sort of disability.

See the document

Plan Familia
La Historia de Sergio



a realistic human story of optimism that is about overcoming obstacles. Directed by Joshua Weigel, the film was the Grand Prize winner of The Doorpost Film Project in 2009, which promotes projects that raise awareness about human values.

The “Butterfly Circus” tells the story of a group of circus performers during the Great Depression in the United States. The circus of Mr. Méndez, however, is different and full of incredible surprises. One of these is the discovery by Mr. Mendez of a young man without extremities at a circus for freaks, who he is willing to accept at his circus and thereby changing his life.

Sale of ONCE lottery tickets

The Las Tablas and Federico Salmón buildings allowed their spaces to be used for the sale of the special ONCE lottery tickets for Mother’s Day.

Literary Activity

Cristina Álvarez de Mon made a presentation at the Nuestra Casa de Collado Villalba Retirement Home (Madrid) of the book “Hasta el cielo, ida y vuelta” (To heaven and back) that tells its story through letters between a girl and her grandmother suffering from Alzheimer’s disease; a story encompassing the greatness of small things and their importance.

The La Luciérnaga dance troupe accompanied by some of the residents at the Nuestra Casa de Collado Villalba (Madrid) home.

Disability on the stage

The final event at FCC’s Week for People with Disabilities and Labour Market Integration was the performance of the La Luciérnaga dance troupe at the Nuestra Casa de Collado Villalba (Madrid) retirement home for people with acute eyesight disability or blind. The troupe offered a repertoire of short acts based on stories by Anton Chekhov that describe the stories, in a humorous tone, about human passions taken to the limit versus the legitimate desire of loving and of being loved, sometimes generating funny and ridiculous stories not lacking in deep sensitivity.

Link
http://portaldelvoluntariado.fcc.es/Paginas/default.aspx

Corporate Volunteer work

Employees at the Levante region and their families participated in a volunteer activity for people with disabilities at the Nostra Casa (Valencia) home, in collaboration with the Adecco Foundation. A great adventure where everyone worked to achieve the same objective: social-labour integration of people with disabilities.

Cristina Álvarez de Mon, author of the book “Hasta el cielo, ida y vuelta”.

FCC launches new equality campaign

Coinciding with the celebration of the International Women's Day, FCC launched a new campaign to support equality that was translated into thirteen languages and distributed in all the countries where the Group operates. This is yet another step forward in Equality related issues thanks to the commitment and collaboration of all of those who work at the Company worldwide and among the most diverse cultures, with a commitment to gender diversity.

Todas estas personas forman parte del Equipo de Gestión de Igualdad y Diversidad y han participado en la creación de:

Nueve Planes de Igualdad

Un protocolo para la prevención de situaciones de acoso laboral y sexual

La firma de un Convenio con el Ministerio de Sanidad contra la violencia de género

Una política de Igualdad y Diversidad

Y en el lanzamiento de diversas campañas de sensibilización

Encouraging awareness-building and training measures

The key objective of these measures is encourage active involvement so that one day it will not be necessary to remind everyone that equality is not just merely a right, but a fact of life in our society. The Company supports measures to build awareness and for training required to contribute to the perception, prevention, and eradication of all actions that infringe this right. It also works to encourage the integration of women in the job market, training, and promotion of women within the FCC Group.

> "These actions reaffirm the Company's commitment to its policy of equality and diversity"

For many years, the FCC Group has been carrying out intensive work to achieve Equality. After the implementation in 2009 of its first Equality Plan, nine new programs have been signed relating to Equality and against gender violence. The Company has also drafted a protocol for preventing on-the-job mobbing and sexual harassment within the Group and has entered into a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Health to fight against gender violence.

FCC has also drafted a specific equality and diversity policy that was approved by the Executive Committee. The policy was implemented after creating an Equality and Diversity Management Team for Spain which is made up of employees from the corporate and other divisions who are committed to extending these policies, programs and measures throughout their business areas.

FCC, is one of the winners of the Ranstad Awards 2013

Germán García Caballero, manager of Recruitment and Employement, collected the prize.

FCC was selected as one of three companies that were given the Ranstad Awards 2013 as one of the most attractive companies to work in within the infrastructures industry. The award ceremony was held in Madrid at the Círculo de Bellas Artes and was collected by Germán García Caballero, FCC's Recruitment and Employment Manager.

The fourth edition of the Ranstad Award ceremony was organised in Spain this year. The selection takes into consideration the perception of 7,000 people in Spain, representing all genders, ages, regions, and educational levels. The study includes students and people with or without a job, with their ages ranging from 17 to 65 years old. The novelty of this study is that the results are based on a survey including people who are of working age and not just those who have a job. The people interviewed are those who have sufficient knowledge about the company to be able to have an opinion on the company and, thereby, have a better and more attractive vision.

The Ranstad Employer Branding Report was launched in Belgium in 2000 and is the most important and broadest independent study worldwide on attractive companies in which to work. At present, 18 countries participate, 3,400 companies have been analysed, and more than 160,000 individuals have been interviewed.

The three most attractive companies by sector
(alphabetical order)

Alimentación y bebidas	Coca-Cola	Nestlé	PepsiCo
Automoción	BMW	Mercedes Benz	Volkswagen-Audi España
Aviación y Transporte	AENA	IBERIA	Renfe
Banca	Banco Santander	BBVA	La Caixa
Comercio	El Corte Inglés	Ikea	Inditex
Energía	Gamesa Eólica	Red Eléctrica Corporación	Repsol
Industria	EADS	Saint Gobain	Schneider Electric
Infraestructuras	FCC	Ferrovial	Sacyr
Logística	Carreras	Logista	Seur
Medios de comunicación	Antena 3TV (Atresmedia)	Canal+	TVE
Química / Farma	Bayer	Boehringer Ingelheim	Novartis
Seguros	Allianz	Mapfre	Zurich
Tecnología y electrónica	IBM	Samsung	Sony
Telecomunicaciones	Correos	Indra	Telefónica

NOSOTROS GENERAMOS ENERGÍA RENOVABLE. TÚ LA UTILIZAS DE MANERA INTELIGENTE.
LO ESTAMOS HACIENDO JUNTOS
FCC
Servicios Ciudadanos
Infraestructuras | Medioambiente
Gestión del agua | Energías renovables
ENERGÍA ELÉCTRICA
ENERGÍA EÓLICA
EJECUCIÓN
GERENCIA
TESORERÍA
EJECUCIÓN
GERENCIA
TESORERÍA
PLANIFICACIÓN
IMPLEMENTACIÓN
PLANIFICACIÓN
IMPLEMENTACIÓN
INVERSIONES
DTO. CONTABILIDAD
INVERSIONES
DTO. CONTABILIDAD
MANTENIMIENTO
INVERSIONISTAS
MANTENIMIENTO
INVERSIONISTAS

Business

Contracts in Peru worth 200 millon euros

> “The new facilities will be able to handle more than 1.9 million containers each year”

FCC has landed two new contracts in Peru: the construction of the Callao Harbour, the country’s leading harbour and one of the largest in South America. The first contract is worth 206.3 million dollars (165 million Euros) and the upgrarading of the Trujillo sports complex in the northeastern part of the country which is worth an additional 32.2 million Euros.

The harbour project is contemplated in contract number 3 which is part of a very ambitious investment plan that is to be carried out in various phases and is worth a total of 1 billion dollars up to the year 2020. The project will aso involve the current piers 5 and 11 which will measure 560 and 280 metres, respectively, in length.

Pier 5 handles containers and mineral cargoes and pier 11 will provide port services for the import of farm products, being equipped with cement-built silos with a total storage capacity of 25,000 tonnes.

FCC has 23 months to complete the work on this phase of the port, which handles more than 1.9 million containers annually. The client, APM Terminals, a Maersk Group company, is the world’s fourth-largest port operator.

The harbour project contemplates the upgrading and revamping of infrastructure and equipment to adapt to current cargo transport demand as well as ship sizes and draughts. The company will also outfit the port with better equipment to be able to handle different types of cargo.

Complejo deportivo de Trujillo

Pursuant to the contract for revamping the Trujillo sports complex (also known as Chicago sports complex), the company will build an athletics stadium, an indoor arena, and supplementary infrastructure in preparation for the 2013 Bolivarian Games, an international multi-sport event held every four years between Bolivarian countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru and Venezuela). Other countries that will participate in this year's games are Chile, Spain, Mexico, Argentina, Guatemala and Paraguay.

From left to right: Francisco Sánchez-Miel, sales manager of Aqualia Industrial; Percy Wong, technical manager of Accuaproduct; Aníbal Eduardo Ísmodes, chairman of the SEDAPAL association; and, Enrique Martín, Aqualia Industrial's head of production.

Aqualia Industrial enters into an agreement with a local Andean company

The second edition of the Pro-VMA International Congress at Lima's Jockey Club was the venue chosen by Aqualia – specialist in industrial water treament – for unviling the new collaboration agreement entred into with Accuaproduct, a Peruvian company. Under this agreement, both copanies will coordinate their efforts for studying and developing industrial waste water treatment plants in Peru, focusing particularly on the fgood, mining, and energy sectors.

The meeting served as a backdrop for presening the product and service offering for the implementation of waste water tratment plants. The company was invited to several technical seminars where it described the experiences in these types of facilities in Spain. Francisco Sánchez-Miel, sales manager of Aqualia Industrial, was in charge of the presentation on "Industrial Waste Water Treament Technologies, more than 20 years' experience in providing solutions worldwide".

Visit by Aníbal Eduardo Ísmodes, chairman of SEDAPAL

The purpose of the seminar was to promote the regulations approving the Maximum Acceptable Values (MAV) of non-household waste water discharges in the sewer system.

Many representatives of the Peruvian industrial sector, the media, and members of the administration visited the stands set up by Aqualia Industrial Accuaproduct, including Aníbal Eduardo Ísmodes, chairman of SEDAPAL, the company in charge of water management in this South American country who praised the business collaboration initiative that provide technological solutions to the market in Peru in relation to the treatment of industrial waste water discharges.

FCC Aqualia lands contracts worth 1.1 billion Euros

To manage end-to-end water cycle in Jerez over the next 25 years

FCC Aqualia, has been awarded a 25-year contract by the Jerez city government to provide the end-to-end water services in the city, as approved by the city's local authorities after the company submitted its offer for the contract put out to tender last January.

Pursuant to this contract, worth close to 900 million Euros, FCC Aqualia, as any other utility, will be billing users directly for the services provided, as contemplated in its offer. It also contemplates further investments worth more than one million Euros per year to upgrade networks and all installations.

The contract includes managing 704 kilometres of sewage network and 870 kilometres of water supply pipeline by which 16.3 million cubic metres of drinking water are supplied each year. Jerez also has 7 drin-

Reinforces its growth and improves efficiency

Félix Parra

The company bolsters its expansion process which, in 2012, thanks to its national and international expansion drive, increased sales by 2.5% thanks to double-digit international sales growth.

Develpment has gone hand-in-hand with enhanced efficiency which drove operating income up by 6% and which has enabled the company to improve its competitiveness and increase its backlog by all-time high of 13.6 billion Euros.

Other contracts

The company also obtained other contracts in the last few days worth more than 200 million euro: operation and maintenance of the La Reguera treatment plant in Madrid (4 years); management of the Aramo treatment plant in Oviedo (33 years); and the provision of water supply and treatment and sewage services in Candeleda, Ávila (30 years).

Additionally, the Aigües de Girona PPP extended its cooperation agreement with FCC Aqualia, which also owns a stake in the partnership; and the local governments in Bezana (Cantabria) and La Bañeza (León) have both extended Aqualia's contract by another 10 years.

king water reservoirs with a storage capacity of 34,300 cubic metres. Aqualia will bill directly to more than 470,000 customers.

Jerez has a wastewater treatment plant (Guadalete) and another 23 smaller treatment facilities throughout the municipality; until now, Aqualia had managed them under a sub-contract from the city-owned company Ajemsa. Once the contract is signed and the commencement date is set, FCC Aqualia will directly manage water treatment and supply as well as the sewage system.

Under this new contract, FCC Aqualia will be providing services to Jerez de la Frontera (population 212,454), thereby strengthening its positioning as the leading water operator in Andalusia, where it serves 100 municipalities and 2.4 million people.

More than 7,000 professionals

FCC Aqualia, which uses cutting-edge technology, has over 7,000 employees working in 1,100 townships throughout 17 countries: Spain, Italy, Portugal, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Montenegro, Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Chile, Algeria, Egypt, UAE, Saudi Arabia and China.

The first caissons

for the Açu harbour in Brazil are ship bound for Brazil

On 15 April, FCC started loading and transferring at the Algecíras Harbour (Cadiz) the first five caissons for the construction work that will commence in Açu Port, around 315 kilometres north of Río de Janeiro (Brazil).

The rectangular caissons have a volume of 3,722 cubic metres of concrete, weigh 9,871 tonnes and will serve as the foundation of the new port in Brazil.

FCC's construction subsidiary is building 9 of the 49 reinforced concrete caissons which will serve as the foundation of Açu Port. The company chose Algeciras as the site to build the first components because of its draught, since the Açu facilities are not yet prepared to moor the caisson production vessels.

> "The caissons were shipped on a semi-submersible vessel measuring two football pitches long and travelled almost 8,000 kilometres in 15 days"

The caissons are 45 metres long, 24 wide and 18 high. Caisson loading requires an extremely high-precision manoeuvre given their size and the scant space between them (approximately 4 metres).

The caissons were loaded onto a Black Marlin semi-submersible vessel measuring 217.50 metres long (equivalent to two football pitches) with a beam of 42 metres. The five caissons were transferred from the dock to the vessel using two tugboats and two support boats.

The Black Marlin was partially submerged to a depth of around 12 metres during the loading process and, once completed, it broached the surface again. The caissons were secured to the deck using steel plates to impede movement during the journey.

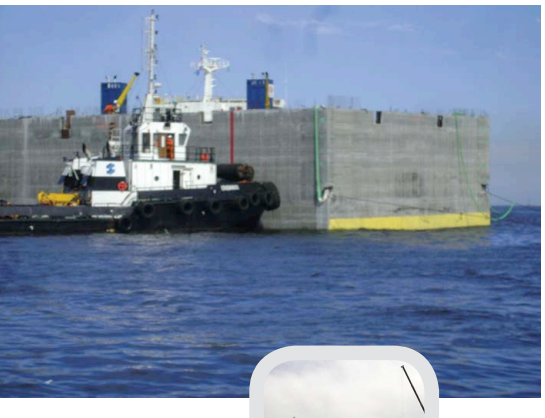
The journey

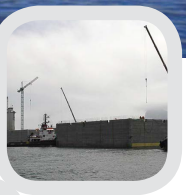
During the 15-day journey, where the Black Marlin travelled 4,300 nautical miles (7,960 kilometres) between Algeciras and Río de Janeiro (Brazil), the five caissons arrived at Rio de Janeiro on 8 May.

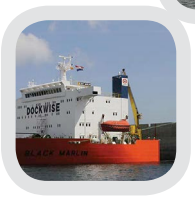
> "Made of reinforced concrete, the five caissons have a volume of 3,722 cubic metres and weigh 9,871 tonnes"

The customs procedures for unloading the caissons were carried out at this Brazilian city on 13 May.

The caissons were towed to São João da







Barra and on 17 May arrived at their destination, Port Açu where the Mar del Aneto and Mar del Enol caisson production vessels will be moored at the temporary breakwater

The 4 remaining caissons (of 9 in total) are nearly completed and the second journey to deliver these to their destination will commence shortly.

Açu Port, the third-largest in the world

FCC heads the consortium that will complete this complex civil engineering project. The project includes the construction of a 2,438 linear metre dock to be executed by manufacturing 49 reinforced concrete caissons and a 600-metre dike. The contract also includes dredging more than 4.1 million cubic metres to attain an average depth of 31 metres, the dike superstructure works, and the provision of nautical equipment and buoys.

The port is located inside the Açu Superport industrial complex, which spans 90 square kilometres (2.5 times the size of Manhattan), and will comprise 2 terminals with 17 kilometres of pier and 40 berths, capable of receiving ships of up to 400,000 tonnes. As a result of this project, Açu will be the third-largest port in the world and the largest in the Americas, with an annual capacity of 350 million tonnes.

FCC Logística increases its portfolio in the Portuguese pharmaceutical sector

FCC Logística, a Spanish company belonging to the Fomento de Construcciones y Contratas group, has strengthened in the first quarter of the year its presence in the Portuguese pharmaceutical sector thanks to agreements signed with the companies Merial and DNA Pharma.

Merial is a world leader in veterinary medicines and belongs to the international group Sanofi. Collaboration between FCC Logística with the Portuguese daughter company will allow the operator to be in charge of the tasks of goods reception, storage, order preparation and despatch of the products sold by Merial, both in continental Portugal and in the islands.

This collaboration is strategic for the company, not only because it expands the array of veterinary drugs that it distributes, particularly in controlled and refrigerated temperatures, but also because it "bolsters the existing relationship with Sanofi".

DNA Pharma is a Portuguese pharmaceutical company that sells medicines and medical apparatus. Growing greatly in the market, DNA Pharma has opted for an experienced logistics operator able to respond quickly to market requirements. The operator has explained, "FCC Logística in Portugal is a real partner of DNA Pharma, accompanying and supporting it in its development in the country".

To develop these services, FCC Logística has set up a large platform of 20,200 m^2 exclusively dedicated to the pharmaceutical sector in the complex that the company has in the town of Azambuja, close to Lisbon

Iberian Peninsula

FCC Logística offers in Spain and Portugal a complete offer of solutions for the supply chain through its business units specialising in automobiles, consumer goods, pharmaceuticals, industry and technology, transport and retail. The company currently has 62 warehouses and logistics platforms in the Iberian Peninsula, over 800,000 metres of storage, 400,000 cubic metres of refrigeration capacity and employs over 3,600 people.

From left to right: María Fúster (Director-General of Coordination and Provision of Urban Areas), Juan Antonio Gómez-Angulo (Environmental and Mobility Representative), Ana Botella (Mayoress of Madrid) and Fernando Villalonga (Government Area Representative for the Arts, Sports and Tourism).

CEMUSA modernises Madrid´s bus shelters

With the new technologies implemented in bus shelters and bus stop posts, users will be able to receive bus service and tourist information on their smartphones, have free WiFi connection or read when the next scheduled bus is due on e-ink message boards.

The Mayoress of Madrid, Ana Botella, presented this pilot project, accompanied by representatives of Madrid City Hall, of the Municipal Transport Company (EMT), of CEMUSA and of FCC. “With Smart Madrid, Spain’s capital has taken a further step forward in becoming a benchmark smart city”, she stated.

The objective of this project is to optimise the public transport service through new technologies, which are, specifically, NFC technology, which allows information to be transmitted between short-distance, contactless devices, QR code, capable of storing data that can be easily read on mobile devices, free-access WiFi and e-ink message boards.

The City Hall is planning to integrate NFC technology and QR codes into five hundred bus shelters and bus stop posts, representing approximately 10% of the 4,205 shelters and 1,200 posts that CEMUSA operates in the city. Citizens and tourists will thus be able to access information in Spanish and English via their smartphones on the next bus due, the nearest bus stops, interesting tourist sites and any incidents in the service.

In addition to this novelty technology, in this pilot trial CEMUSA will also be installing free WiFi with roaming to buses in around ten bus shelters that, added to the service already being provided by the buses of the EMT, will prevent user internet connection from being interrupted when boarding or alighting from a bus.

These same bus shelters will be fitted with e-ink message boards providing dynamic information updated every 30 seconds on arrival times, any incidents or information of municipal interest. Electronic ink provides optimal viewing in any light condition and requires very low energy consumption. They also incorporate a voice information system that repeats the screen texts in several languages.

CEMUSA drives forward the development and implementation of technological and innovative solutions through Cemusa Tec. Since its creation in May 2011, this brand has focused its resources on improving the efficiency of the urban furniture, adapting existing ones and creating new mediums and applications that meet the requirements that new smart and sustainable urban models promote. Moreover, from an advertising point of view, it has injected a new dynamic into the urban environment and points of sale thanks to the added value that digital and interactive solutions offer to advertisers: flexibility, instant content updates and a greater visual impact of the messages.

FCC Environment harvests first landfill biomass crop

Leading recycling, resource and waste management company, FCC Environment has harvested its first crop of biomass fuel grown on two of its restored landfill and quarry sites.

The 30 hectare sites in Darrington, West Yorkshire and Calverton, Nottinghamshire were sown with a fast-growing annual miscanthus grass crop which is expected to yield up to 300 tonnes of carbon neutral biomass fuel annually once the crop is established. The crop will be sent to Drax power station to be used as a fuel to generate low carbon electricity.

Miscanthus grass is one of the main preferred crops for biomass use on restored sites as the plants' deep rhizomes (root system) give structure to the soil by adding biodegradable matter and aerating it. This is a vital process for sites where the long-term restoration plan is to return the land to agricultural use.

With over 200 hectares on 24 former landfill sites currently in production, FCC Environment is taking a leading role in the UK resource management sector in utilising former landfill sites that had been sealed.

Contract with Cumbria University (England)

FCC Environment has secured a three-year contract with the University of Cumbria to become the sole supplier of waste and recycling services to the University.

The Company will provide services to the through its Carlisle, Lancaster and Ambleside facilities.

The contract contemplates the introduction of a two-bin solution rolled out across the university campuses and separate collections for general waste and mixed dry recyclates.

Somos agua
desde el principio hasta el fin.
En FCC llevamos más de 100 años aplicando conocimiento, innovación y capacidad técnica para prestar un servicio inteligente, como el que ofrece aqualia a más de 28 millones de personas en todo el mundo, en la gestión de servicios públicos del agua.
Lo estamos haciendo juntos.
aqualia
www.fcc.es
www.aqualia.es

People

The Nikšić waste water treatment plant in Montenegro

The boss and his project

Juan Miguel Martínez Martínez

Juan Miguel Martínez has been supervising work on this project from the start. Before this, he had worked at the enlargement project for the La Golondrina waste water treatment facility in Cordoba and in the construction of a water desalination plant in Santa Eulalia del Río (Ibiza). The first project consisted mainly of the execution of two 32 metre diameter and 3.5 metre high primary settling vessel, two secondary ones measuring 38 metres in diameter and 3.60 metres tall, and two biological reactors, 66 metres long, 21 metres wide and 6 metres tall. The centrifuge pump room was also expanded, replacing the old ones with new ones with greater capacity. Work also included the replacement of the sieves, the sand sorter, the power generator, and the sand removal equipment.

The 15,000 m^3/day capacity desalination plant in Santa Eulalia del Rio included the construction of an outlet tower at Ibiza's harbour which had been displaced by the waves to the anchorage point in Santa Eulalia. In addition, a 400 meter long and

On the right, Juan Miguel Martínez, project manager with Filip Bozovic, Vanja Kundacina and Vukasin Radojicic, members of the technical staff.

Project team:

Regional manager:
Juan Bofill Maestre

Project manager:
Juan Miguel Martínez Martínez

Project technician:
Vukasin Radojicic

Translator:
Vanja Kundacina

Administrative staff:
Juan José Jiménez Díaz y Filip Bozovic

Nikšić

Nikšić is a city in Montenegro situated in the western part of the country. It is also the capital of a township with the same name. According to the 2011 census, the population totals 56,970 inhabitants and is the second largest city in the country in terms of population.

700 mm diameter transmarine outlet pipeline was built as well as an 800 metre long, 1000 mm diameter pipeline for brining in water. Both contained a section that was anchored and another section that was built by drilling horizontally in order to preserve the Neptune grass pastures.

Progress achieved at the project

Work is currently ongoing to complete the foundations of the entire facilities when the harsh winter temperature of Montenegro allows it. The structure of the control buildings and workshop has been completed and it is safe to say that 25% of the project has been executed. Once the winter season is over, the major project involving the construction of the elevations will commence.

Pending challenges

The main challenge is to meet deadlines, especially considering the discrepancies between the FIDIC contract governing the project and the laws of Montenegro. This was the reason why it took longer than expected to secure the permits for the project. Nevertheless, the project will be completed on time. Other challenges include the upgrading of the old tunnel through which the waste water flows, installing a new collector in its interior without interrupting the flow through the old tunnel without damaging it.

FCC team's contribution to the project was mainly through Aqualia Infrastructure, an FCC Group company with broad experience in the construction of wastewater treatment plants and its capacity to face unexpected challenges in the projects where it is involved. The company also has excellent relations with the project management and owners.

Roads linking Sector A.R. of Nuevo Tres Cantos with the M-607 Highway (Madrid)

From left to right: Óscar Olivares Malo, head of the M-607 technical office; Elena Santamaría Hernández, Quality and Environment technician; Nuria Ruiz Triguero, Safety and Health technician; Fernando Ortega Martínez, Production Manager; José María González Jiménez, Project manager; Lorenzo Sandín Álvarez (in the forefront), head of the Technical Urbanisation Office; Juan Núñez Berruguete, Concession Manager (head of the Real Estate Development and Management Department) (in the back); Graciliano Gallardo García, Department Manager.

The boss and his project

José María González Jiménez

He joined FCC Construcción in 2001 and since then has participated in several projects in Madrid such as the Montecarmelo urban development, the underground section of the M-30 ring-road, the Puente de Praga-South Node section, and is currently in charge of the roads connecting Sector A.R. Nuevo Tres Cantos with the M-607 road.

Description of the project

The 329 hectare project is one of the most important urban developments in the Madrid Autonomous Community. Two roads for connecting the sector with the M-607 road are currently being built with the Nor-

FCC managers describe the progress achieved at the project to the authorities.

th and South intersections. A two kilometre lane on the west bank of the M-607 is currently being built providing entry into the sector from the north, as well as the incorporation in the M-607 road of cars from the sector bound for Madrid.

A service road is included, as is a renovated bike lane, for better-than-ever safety conditions.

The execution of these two intersections makes it necessary to push back the Atazar Canal of Canal Isabel II. This requires the construction of a 400 metre double steel pipeline with a 2,200 metre diameter and 22 mm thick. Both pipelines will be embedded in a reinforced concrete structure built in situ.

What is the differentiating value of FCC?

Its commitment to excellent project execution and quality assurance.

How will the community benefit when these two new roads are open for traffic?

It will improve the connections from the urban centre of Tres Cantos with the M-607 road.

M-607 road enlargement and upgrading project

Two new M-607 access roads will handle traffic to and from the Nuevo Tres Cantos development and make it easier for local vehicles to join the northward and Madrid-bound traffic on the Colmenar road.

The Tres Cantos City Council has already taken delivery of most of the development's residential area, which is fully outfitted with all urban services and public transport facilities. Of the 7,000 homes included in the project, 1,800 have already been handed over and another 1,500 are under construction. Numerous builders and cooperatives are busy preparing their blueprints, getting their permits and marketing another 1,000 homes. The project is expected to reach completion in late 2013, making this development one of the Community of Madrid's strongest investment magnets.

Isabella (second on the left) at Uhuru Peak, the highest in Africa.

On the top of Africa

An impressive view above the clouds, incredible distances without anything limiting the view, and a feeling of indescribable happiness.

This is how Isabella Drakulic describes the moment when she climbed to the highest peak in the African continent know as the Uhuru Peak. After several days of climbing the 5,895 metres of the Kibo, the feeling is one of pleasure and relief for this achievement. Kibo, the highest mountain in Africa, is one of the "Seven Peaks" of the Kilimanjaro mountain range in Tanzania.

Discovering your own limits

What motivated Drakulic, a member of Alpine's marketing team, was her desire to test her own limits. As an enthusiastic athlete, she prepared for this expedition with a lot of training, especially strength training.

> "The lack of oxygen at high altitudes provokes insomnia and aggravates physical and mental exhaustion. It is a very real risk"

"Even then, it is impossible to know if your body will be able to tolerate increasing altitudes. The challenge of mountain climbing is to climb gradually every day", Drakulik explained to us.

Even if you train sufficiently every day before your departure, you can never be really sure if your body will be able to tolerate he altitude or if you will be able to reach the summit. The lack of oxygen because of the high altitudes makes you sleepy and aggravates physical and mental exhaustion. It is a real risk since the climb requires great efforts: the long trip to Tanzania in eastern Africa, all the equipment that is required, and then you must also be in shape and this requires a lot of prior physical training.

A trip combining sports and culture

The western Alps certainly have sufficient mountains and demanding climbs to satisfy the need for adrenaline. Nevertheless, for Isabella Drakulic the most appealing part of this adventure is to combine with a physical challenge, a foreign culture, and a trip to the African continent. As soon as you land,

Mount Kibo
at the National Park
of Kilimanjaro.

Isabella (third on the right) with her colleagues and guides.

the air is pleasantly warm and the European winter is left far behind. The six-day trip is full of new scenery across five different climate zones: a deep tropical forest followed by moors and highlands where the plants grow up to 9 meters tall – the highest senecio trees in the world, and then a sterile rock desert surrounded by three glaciers. Hikers are accompanied by Chagga guides, members of the original settlers of the Kilimanjaro. They guide the hikers through their chose route, set up the tents, prepare the food and at the same time, give them a glimpse of a different way of life and customs.

> “The six-day trip, beginning at your landing at the Kilimanjaro base, is full of unknown landscapes through five different climate zones”

> “The day you finally reach the peak you have to walk 18 hours and then sleep another night at the camp”

18 hours to reach the summit

Before the mountain climbers reach their goal (the Kibo peak) they had travelled for five days. The day on which they try to reach the summit is the most demanding one, requiring discipline and extreme tenacity since they have to climb another 1,300 metres. “We left at about 11:00 p.m. and reached the peak just before dawn”, Isabella told us. “But, when we made it and stood there, all our efforts were compensated. The sense of euphoria overwhelms you and the clear view above the clouds of the neighbouring Mount Meru was truly unforgettable”, she reminisced , enthusiastic about the experience, even after she was back home.

After a photo session at the peak of the mountain, with little air, at less than 15 degrees centigrade and with a strong wind blowing, the group started to go down the mountain. They reached the base camp, which is at an altitude of 3,200 metres, around 5 in the afternoon. “The day you finally reach the peak you have to walk 18 hours and then sleep another night at the camp”, Isabella told us. After returning to the comfort of the hotel, there are still two more days for relaxing and for reliving the experience with the group. Then the trip back home, with an unforgettable experience in your backpack, and thinking about the next objective.

Social responsibility

Cemusa joins the Earth Hour campaign once again this year

7249 bus shelters were provided

Madrid heads the ranking of the cities with the most space provided for the campaign, followed by Malaga, Valencia, and Seville. Cemusa contributed to this event by providing 7,249 bus shelters for the campaign.

For yet another year, Cemusa, as a partner, provided 7,249 advertising spaces at its bus shelters in several Spanish cities to the international organisation WWF for its environment protection campaign "Earth Hour Climate Change Campaign" which was celebrated on 23 March at 9:30 p.m.

This agreement is in keeping with the collaboration agreement entered into by WWF and FCC Citizen Services to develop social responsibility polities on sustainability in relation to the purchase of origin-certified wood.

The Hour of the Planet has become the most important global initiative in favour of the environment. In the last edition in 2012, more than 7,000 cities throughout 152 countries and thousands of companies worldwide, 500 of them in Spain, participated in the initiative.

The event is aimed at encouraging governments, citizens, and companies to become in a joint initiative to call attention to the effects of global warming and demand that political leaders take measures to control CO_2 emissions.

For further information, click on the following link:

http://www.horadelplaneta.es/

Schoolchildren from Clara Campoamor de San Martín de la Vega visit the El Porcal (Madrid) quarry.

Grupo Cementos Portland Valderrivas

A restored area equivalent to the size of 1,200 soccer fields

Six facilities participated in the 6th Day of Trees and Aggregates

The Cementos Portland Valderrivas Group (GCPV) has restored nearly 8.5 square metres of quarries and gravel pits in Spain from the year they started operations until last year. This area is equivalent to nearly 1,200 soccer fields and accounts for 45% of the total areas under exploitation. Another 9% are currently being restored.

Eighty-six % of the Group's quarries and gravel pits, from which gravel is extracted (sand, gravel, and rocks) have been restored and recovery work is currently being carried out in 12% of these.

Six of the GCPV facilities – El Porcal (Madrid), Orpí (Barcelona), Arcos (Cadiz), Gilena and El Naranjal (Seville) and Andujar (Jaén)- participated in the 6th Edition of the Tree and Gravel Day, an initiative promoted by the Association of Gravel Manufacturers (ANEFA, Spanish acronym) with the objective of providing information on the industry and to encourage children to respect the environment.

About 300 children aged 7 to 13 participated in the events organised at the facilities of the Cementos Portland Valderrivas Group where they planted more than 400 trees.

In last year's edition, 42 gravel sites owned by different companies participated in the event with more than 3,000 children participating and plating over 5,000 trees. Since 2008, about 16,000 children visited the sites in the first five editions of this event and planted about 25,000 trees.

Protection of the environment, the sustainable use of resources, adequate management of waste and emissions, and the fight against climate change are the key objectives for Cementos Portland Valderrivas. The company has been recognised with several distinctions for its recovery and restoration work, including several National Awards for Sustainable Development at Quarries and Gravel Pits which are given out by ANEFA. Gravel is an essential element used in the construction of buildings and public works and is also used to manufacture glass window panes and glasses, paper for books, notebooks and newspapers, in steel for cars, and even in medicines, computers and is also used to generate electric power. Each individual consumes 4,600 kilograms of gravel each year, about twelve per day.

11th Edition of the International Children's Drawing Contest

Smart use of water through innovation, the key idea in this contest

"The future of water looks good because you're painting it" was used the slogan for this 11th edition of the International Children's Drawing Contest sponsored by FCC Aqualia to commemorate Word Water Day. This year the contest stressed the development and the application of new technological innovations, some of which are already available, that contribute to a more efficient use of water at homes and cities and are also respectful of the environment.

To build awareness among the youth, who will be the citizens of the future, FCC Aqualia invites children from 3rd to 4th grade in townships where the company operates in countries such as Spain, Portugal, Italy, the Czech Republic, and the United Arab Emirates. The contest is held coinciding with Word Water Day which, this year, was celebrated under the slogan "International Year of Water Cooperation".

The slogan aims to remind us of our responsibility of informing the younger generations on the importance of the rational use of this resource. This year, the slogan also aims to stress the efforts of water managers such as FCC Aqualia in implementing new techniques and innovations that make life easier for citizens.

According to the company sources, "we are developing new technologies at the service of citizens based on innovation and the use of information technologies so that we can contribute to the creation of smart services since the end-to-end water cycle is becoming increasingly important for modern cities and their inhabitants.

"Once again this year, we want the drawing contest to contribute to transmitting this message to youngsters since they represent the future. This way, they will not only learn more about water and the end-to-end cycle, but will become aware and appreciate the work involved in bringing water to homes, with full guarantees of quality as well as quantity, using technologies that make life easier and contribute to the responsible consumption of this resource".

World Water Day activities

On World Water Day, several departments conducted educational activities. In Ibiza, 50 fourth-grade students and the councilmen for the Environment and Education visited the desalination Plant. Students and the local authorities were accompanied by the director of FCC Aqualia's offices for the Balearic Islands, Eduardo del Castillo and by Antonio Sáez, the head of the Municipal Water Department and were able to learn first-hand about the details of the history and operations of this facility which started operations in 1994.

In Santa Eulalia del Río (Ibiza) more than 500 of the town's students participated in the Children's Congress for Saving Water. The objective of this program is to work towards achieving environmental quality and sustainability in our surroundings and to promote good habits, respect and responsibility in relation to the environment among students.

In Miajadas (Cáceres), the City Council and FCC Aqualia celebrated the week by visiting the waste water treatment plant with more than 100 students and several neighbourhood associations. Antonio Barba, head of Aqualia's department in the city showed them the different phases involved in the freshwater treatment process and distributed copies of the Hydrokid comic book among the students.

In Algeciras, several of the city's schools were able to tour during the entire week the new waste water treatment facilities and to learn about the water cycle at this plant which recently started operations. Emalgesa was in charge of organizing this initiative. In the Tropical Coast of Granada, Manuel Ruiz, water and services manager gave a speech on the water cycle to the students at the Cardenal Belluga School in Motril.

The Museum of Contemporary Art in Vigo was the venue chosen by Aqualia and the local authorities for inviting 200 of the city's students.

Several departments in Andalucía also celebrated this event by handing out the prizes from last year's drawing contest and providing details about the new contest in several cities such as Rota, Sanlucar de Barrameda and Cadiz.

> "Actions focused on building awareness on the proper and responsible use of water"

In Vigo, the city's mayor Abel Caballero, and the Councilman for Public Works, David Regades, accompanied by José Luis García, head of FCC Aqualia's offices in the city and José María Ardoy, the FCC Aqualia's manager in Vigo, gave out the prizes to the winners of the 10th edition of the international children's drawing contest.

In Santander, neighbourhood associations visited the spring water reservoirs, the water treatment plant, and the water museum at the Pronillo water deposit.

The schoolchildren of Guijuelo studied the end-to-end water cycle with the help of Hydrokid, the main character of the comic book "Hydrokid, the water guardian". Children also visited the city's drinking water and waste water treatment plants.

In Ávila, the city's mayor Miguel Ángel García Nieto; Antonio Pérez, the councilman for Public Works and Services, and José Gabriel Lumbreras, head of FCC Aqualia's department, distributed the prizes for the 10th edition of the international children's drawing contest.

In La Solana (Ciudad Real), an agreement called "The Water Trip" was signed under which measures will be designed and carried out to teach good habits for water consumption.

Lastly, in Plaza del Charco in Puerto de la Cruz (Tenerife), various activities such as workshops and seminars were organized to raise awareness on the responsible use of water.

José Manuel Velasco, general manager of Communications and SR at FCC introduced Eulogio López, the founder and director of the digital newspaper hispanidad.com.

Jorge Rivera, director of the financial newspaper “Cinco Días”.

4th cycle of “Fridays at the Residence” events

Eulogio López

During March and April of this year, as part of the IV cycle of “Fridays at the Residence” conferences, FCC volunteers were able listen to the speech by Eulogio López, founder and director of the digital newspaper hispanidad.com. His conference titled “Letter from Pope John Paul II to the elderly” and praised the fact that our elders are playing an active and increasingly important role by performing volunteer work to share their experience and knowledge, also taking care of their families and joining the paid workforce.

Eulogio has collaborated in several newspapers, including La Nueva España (Oviedo), Gaceta del Norte (Pamplona), Heraldo de Aragón (Zaragoza), YA (Sunday supplement and book reviews) and ABC: He has also written several books, including: “Califas del Dinero”; “Por qué soy cristiano and, sin embargo, periodista”; “En defensa de la Iglesia” and “Los años no mienten: Diez años de socialismo en España”.

Amalia Gallego

Amalia Gallego visited the residence on 15 March and made a presentation on the “Jewels in the Thyssen Museum Collection. Amalia, who holds a History of Art degree was accompanied by Iñi López de Sa, Marchioness of San Eduardo and by Miguel Mas de San Eduardo, owners of Madrid’s jewellery San Eduardo jewellery shop.

Amalia Gallego, PHD in Art History.

During the conference, she highlighted the selection of masterpieces that are on permanent exhibit at the Thyssen Museum, which include the jewels worn by the individuals portrayed in “A Portrait of Giovanna Tornabuoni”, by Domenico Ghirlandaio and the “Portrait of Henry VIII” by Hans Holbein the Younger.

Antonio Gutiérrez Vergara

The economist Antonio Gutiérrez Vergara visited the Collado Villalba home on 22 March and spoke on “Inequality as the origin of the crisis of capitalism”.

He currently works at Bankia and is well-known for his involvement with the CC.OO. trade union of which he was secretary general from 1987 to 2000. He was also a congressman from Madrid as an independent in the Socialist Party candidacy and chairman of the Economy and Treasury Commission in Congress from March 2004 to November 2011.

Antonio Gutiérrez, economist, during his conference.

Jorge Rivera

Another journalist, Jorge Rivera from the financial newspaper “Cinco Días” closed the FCC Volunteers conference cycle on 19 April and gave a speech entitled “Cinco Días: past, present and future of financial information”. He has been working at the newspaper, firstly during an internship, and in 2005 became its editor. Cinco Días, part of the Spanish media group PRISA, was founded in 1978 and is the oldest financial newspaper in Spain.

FCC Aqualia trains vocational training students

Session on water supply and sanitation in Oviedo

Photos of the training session in which the following people participated: from left to right Mercedes López, manager of IES Doctor Fleming; Alfonso Tomás, manager of FCC Aqualia's offices in Oviedo; Inmaculada González, councilwoman in charge of the Water department at Oviedo's City Council; and David Casado, head of Production.

In keeping with its Corporate Social Responsibility policy, FCC Aqualia is firmly committed to contributing to educational and cultural development in the communities where it provides its services. FCC Aqualia 's staff in Oviedo taught a course, for the second consecutive year, for senior students from Vocational Training schools who are currently studying "Building Projects" and "Development of Urban Projects and Topography Operations".

Inmaculada González, Oviedo's councilwoman for Water and Sanitation, Alfonso Tomás, FCC Aqualia's manager in Oviedo, and David Casado, head of the Production Department participated in the training session.

As part of their training, it is important for these students to learn how to design and calculate water supply, irrigation, and sanitation infrastructure installations. In the session, students were taught about the various elements that form part of these facilities as well as the main characteristics of the main pipelines and water devises in the water networks.

Panama

Recognition for the heroes of Cerro Patacón

FCC's commitment to the welfare of Panama's community and society has made it worthy of the recognition "Héroes de Cerro Patacón".

The ministry of the Presidency, Roberto Henríquez, representing the National Government, gave out the awards recognising the hard work of men and women, called "HÉROES" who voluntarily worked day and night to control the fire at the Cerro Patacón sanitary landfill on 19 March.

Among the personalities who were present at this event were Javier Díaz, the Minister of Health; Enrique Ho Fernández, director of the Sanitation Department; representatives of private companies who participated in putting out the fire, and several members of the firemen's department.

Well-being

World Day for Safety and Health at Work

The Las Dehesas plant, a model of balance

In order to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases throughout the world, each year the World Day for Safety and Health at Work is celebrated on the 28th of April.

Coinciding with this initiative, the Regional Institute of Safety and Health at Work organised the 3rd edition of the Safety and Health at Work Week of the Madrid Autonomous Community.

In collaboration with several entities, professional associations, social agents and companies, several technical seminars and events were organised to promote the improvement of safety and health conditions at the work place and the fight against occupational accidents.

Within this context, a visit was made on 23 April to one of the treatment plants in Madrid where FCC Medio Ambiente conducts its activities to check the technical aspects of the work procedures at this site. Representatives from the Regional Institute of

A global reference

World Day for Safety and Health at Work is a celebration with a short tradition which has become a global reference among workers. In 1996, the 28th of April was chosen as the day to celebrate this day dedicated to workers who had suffered accidents at the workplace and those who were affected by an occupational disease.

Safety and Health at Work visited the Las Dehesas plant to examine in situ the practical results of the management measures to improve the prevention of occupational hazards and the fights against accidents at the work place.

The biomethanisation plants at Parque Valdemingómez (Madrid) make this one of the most important treatment facilities in Europe thanks to its technological and innovative capabilities. It is one of the largest facilities of its kind and unique because of its digester system.

The environmental aspects at the Las Dehesas plant are managed by FCC. The plant is a model of balance, combining production activity and respect for the environment. Its treatment installations and systems make it possible to absorb all the waste left at the Valdemingómez Technological Park.

The processes involved in biomethanisation can be broken down as follows:

World Day for Safety and Health at Work

Tools for reducing the rate of accidents

The General Director of Work and Manager of the Regional Institute for Safety and Health at Work of the Madrid Community, María del Mar Alarcón Castellanos, showing an interest for the details provided by one of the plant's employees.

- Reception and pre-treatment
- Biomethanisation
- Dehydration
- The treatment of leachate
- Air capturing and treatment systems

The FCC prevention team has implemented several improvements to control hazards, thanks to which, the rate of accidents at the plant has been constantly decreasing. Some these measures include:

Protection against explosions:

- Drafting the "Document for the Protection against Explosions".
- Specific work procedures for the plant.
- Protocol for the work permits in ATEXZ areas.
- Work overalls made with anti-static fabrics.
- Fixed and portable methane gas detectors.

Protection against biological hazards

- Specialised company in charge of washing and replacing work garments.
- Protocol for hepatitis and tetanus vaccines.
- Maintenance and control of the refrigeration tower, maintenance performed by specialised company, and control of water at the tower at the plant by taking daily measurements.
- Rat extermination and permanent disinfection of the facilities.

Protection against chemicals:

- Portable detectors of toxic gases (ammonia and hydrogen sulphide).
- Specific garments and equipment for handling corrosive products (chemical protection overalls, PVC boots, neoprene gloves, etc.).
- Semi-masks with filters for protection against toxic gases.
- Installation of eye-washers next to the chemical analysis laboratories and chemical products deposit.

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Fire protection:

- Aspirating and thermal smoke detectors, gas detectors and infrared camera.
- Sprinkler system, water curtains, hydrating gas fire extinguishers, BIEs, and manual powder and CO_2 extinguishers.

Protection against electrical hazards:

- Restriction and control of access to the high voltage facilities.

Other:

- Strict control of the entrance and exit for personnel enforcing the use of the mandatory safety helmets and high-visibility garments.
- Designing a special tour for visits organized by the City Council to control hazards.
- Specific protocols for medical check-ups, stressing the risk of falling from heights and biological hazards.

FCC Medio Ambiente shares Road Safety good practices

The "Road Safety at the Company: 4th Meeting on Good Practices", organized by the Spanish Foundation for Road Safety (FESVIAL, Spanish acronym) and sponsored by the Traffic Department (DGT), the Institute of Safety and Health at Work (INSHT) and the General Directorate of Labour of the Government of Aragón, was held on 14 March.

The event was inaugurated by María Seguí, general director of Traffic, with the participation of administrations, labour unions, employers' associations, and companies from different sectors and different sizes which shared information and experiences in the prevention of occupational road accidents.

The participation of FCC Citizen Services in the round table discussion on Company Experiences was headed by Carmelo Jiménez Bozal, director of Labour Relations at the Aragón and La Rioja branch offices of the Environment Division. He detailed in the auditorium FCC's commitment to the prevention of occupational road accidents and its implications in line with the Road Safety Strategic Plan and the specific objectives defined by management of the Environment Division's corporate department for the prevention of occupational hazards.

Model of good practices

The best example of this commitment was the presentation on the background and development of the measures that have been implemented at the Aragón-La Rioja regional offices that serve as a model of good practices and has delivered positive results in reducing road accidents at work.

Under the leadership of the manager of the branch office, an interdisciplinary group was created, coordinated by the Human

> "Strong commitment to training and information for workers accompanied by technical measures in vehicle maintenance and in the work equipment utilised"

Resources Departments and made up of the heads of the Prevention, Medical Services, Training, and Production departments who are in charge of incorporating road safety in all actions in the public thoroughfares and of analysing the incidences in this field.

The branch office is firmly committed to training and of providing information to workers, accompanied by technical measures in vehicle maintenance as well as on the work equipment. Significant work is carried aimed at the prevention of road accidents by integrating road safety and mobility in the management of activities.

Information on the seminar can be obtained at the FESVIAL website. For more detailed information on the measures implemented by the Aragón – La Rioja branch, contact their Prevention Department by calling 976.592.316 or by sending an e-mail to jrruizm@fcc.es.

Grupo Cementos Portland Valderrivas

Record Occupational Safety and Health results in 2012 in Spain

The Cementos Portland Valderrivas Group (GCPV) factories at Alcalá de Guadaíra (Seville), Hontoria (Palencia), Mataporquera (Santander), and Vallcarca (Barcelona) ended the year 2012 without any accidents requiring sick leave of its own personnel, a success also achieved by the entire Mortar business unit. The aggregates plant at Coreses (Zamora) deserves special mention for its 10 years without any occupational accidents.

The number of accidents with sick leave in Spain has dropped 68% in the last four years, from 141 in 2008 to 45 in 2012. It should also be mentioned that accidents requiring sick leave at the Group during last year were minor accidents.

These results have been achieved thanks to the efforts and close collaboration of the departments involved, their teams, and the Department for Occupational Safety and Health.

A good example of this is the special mention awarded to the Mataporquera factory as part of the "Zero Accidents in Cantabria Target" launched by the Cantabria's Institute of Safety and Health at Work. The distinction was given to 16 companies in the region by Cristina Mazas, Councillor of the Department of Economy, Treasury, and Employment in an event held on 22 February at the Institute's headquarters.

FCC at the International Seminar for Road Safety in the Company

Many traffic accidents occur during working hours. Road safety is part of Occupational Safety for any employee, whichever is the sector where they work and accordingly, the involvement of companies in this issue is essential.

FCC has always demonstrated its involvement in this issue and has developed and implemented its Strategic Road Safety Plan.

The Mapfre Foundation organised an International Seminar on road safety in Panama City, Quito (Ecuador) and in Lima (Peru). The seminars focused on "Driving Safely, preventing road accidents at the company". Well-known experts in this filed participated, including several FCC employees, who debated this issue and shared their knowledge on how to reduce the risk of road accidents to a minimum and how to apply this knowledge in the work in the work environment.

An interesting exhibit was organised during the seminar, describing the European and Latin American vision on this issue, and the various seminars were focused on three major blocks of knowledge:

- Road safety at companies
- Road safety experiences and good practices at companies.
- Prevention policies at companies.

Within this context, FCC, as a company with international prestige, participated and shared its knowledge on road safety in the business world, detailing the specific measures that have been implemented wherever it conducts its activities.

The paper on "Road Safety Management at Work" was presented as part of the section of Prevention by various FCC representatives:

Panama City, Panama

- Juan Carlos Sáez de Rus, manager of the FCC Corporate Department for Occupational Safety, Health, and Welfare.

Quito, Ecuador

- Celestino González, corporate manager of Proactiva Medio Ambiente Mexico – FCC Group.

Lima, Peru

- María del Río Lopezosa, technician working at FCC's Corporate Department on Occupational Safety, Health and Welfare.

Stress and health at work

How to avoid it and handle it at work and in everyday life

Dr. Román Rodríguez Barrigüete

Stress at work affects a high percentage of workers in the industrialised world and implies a high personal, psychological, and financial cost. It is impossible to eliminate stress altogether and, as we will see later on, this may not be the best solution since stress plays a role in our adaptation, forcing us to generate physical and emotional responses in dangerous and stressful situations at work, activating our imagination, intelligence, and work capacity so that we are able to face difficult challenges and new situations.

Regardless of the level of stress, which, if it reaches a certain level, could be excessive and harmful for our health, the way we handle and manage it is essential in order for us to experience it as something positive or negative. "Bad" stress paralyses us and makes us anxious and triggers the "escape mode" (since this causes stress, I avoid it). Positive stress, however, energises us and brings out our creativeness when faced with a challenge or a project.

Consequences of stress

The physiological mission of stress throughout human evolution is to force us to generate physical and emotional responses when faced with dangerous situations. When the level of stress is excessive, however, the impact on our health could be quite serious. We can respond to stress in the following ways:

- **Cardiovascular response:** This has been the most studied type of response. It is important to bear in mind that coronary pathologies remain one of the major causes of death in industrial societies.

  There is strong empirical evidence of the relationship between job stress and high blood pressure and other cardiovascular pathologies. Nevertheless, the relationship between coronary stress and coronary risks could be affected, to a lesser extent, by psychological and behavioural mechanisms.

  The cardiovascular indicator most widely applied in studies, essential for understanding the relationship between occupational stress and cardiovascular diseases, is blood pressure. Variations in our blood pressure during working and non-working days were analysed, making a distinction between variations experienced at work, after work, and at night. The results of these studies indicate that blood pressure increases during stressful periods or whenever we experience negative emotions during the day, with the greatest number of manifestations existing among emotionally unstable individuals.

- **Neuroendocrinological response to occupational stress:** at the endocrinological level, cortisol, an indicator

which is highly sensitive to stress in general and chronic stressful conditions, play the most important role in stressful conditions. Other hormones have been studied although it has not been possible so far to determine their role in this respect.

Besides being good indicators of the response to stress, cortisol levels are also associated with their negative impact on our health. Studies have been carried out to measure the response of cortisol in the morning, right after waking up, and throughout the day. The response of cortisol in the morning is generally associated with factors responsible for chronic stress whereas the variations throughout the day are linked to negative moods and our perception of stress.

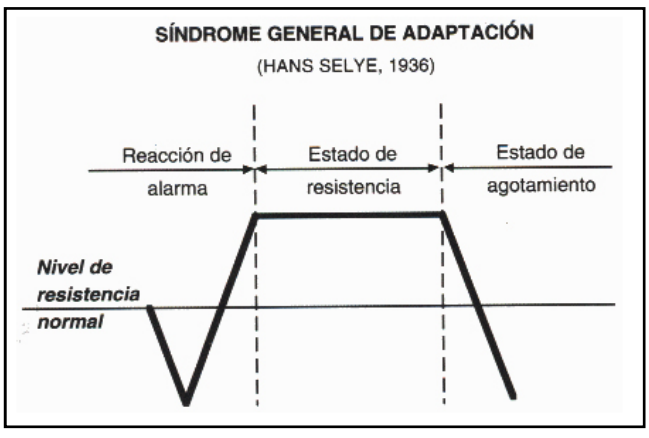
The other hormones that play a role in occupational stress are adrenaline and noradrenalin. It has been suggested that the characteristics of a job and cardiovascular pathology are linked to the levels of cortisol and adrenaline in our bodies. If the level of stress control is low, this would give rise to high levels of adrenaline and cortisol that could cause damage to the cardiovascular system.

- **Psychological response to stress:** Probably the most widespread and the most frequent reason for occupational medicine related visits to the doctors. It is intimately associated with our ability to respond to stress agents and with the recovery process. It is not always easy to identify the clinical manifestation of anxiety since most people believe that this could be simply a nervous condition, the sensation of unjustified hurry. It is more complicated. However, to find the link between anxiety and the somatic manifestations that it can cause such as physical symptoms not related to an organic pathology.

Symptoms such as dizziness, numbness in our extremities, unexplained headaches, physical exhaustion, and unusually frequent muscle spasms could be somatic signs of an anxiety syndrome. It will require the final diagnosis by a physician who should be careful not to make an erroneous diagnosis or overlook the psychological reasons responsible for these symptoms.

We should be aware and try to address the problem in time in the event that prolonged anxiety could imply an undetected depression which, in turns, feeds the source of anxiety. When the patient does not fee well, he could identify his condition with symptoms that may seem organic, thinking that he is suffering from something serious. This could lead to a vicious cycle which only makes the condition worse and even make it more complicated as a result of a depression.

- **Emotional response. The keys for managing stress:** Can we control stress? Not only are we able to do this, but we must do it in order to prevent becoming ill which would only limit or vital and job capabilities. We will get back to this point later, since not all stress is bad. Stress is an organic response that does not neces-



sarily have to be negative. Throughout evolution, stress has played a key role in the survival of living organisms and has helped us to remain alert when facing negative situations for survival, triggering our biological adaptation mechanisms, either to face the aggression or to flee from it. The role of stress, therefore, is to force us to generate physical and emotional responses in dangerous situations.

Things are different now and, unlike our ancestors, we don't usually have to face a fierce animal or natural risks. We currently face stressful situations at work (or in our daily lives) that most of the time does not require an immediate response although such situations could exceed our resistance capacity over the long term, testing our psychological adaptation capacity. Nevertheless, this capacity varies and depends on the personality, training, and character of each worker, and this should be taken into account in order to be able to analyse the overall situation. Is there anything we can do to prevent this type of situation by somehow controlling the stress that we inescapably have to face?

Recommendations to prevent stress

Some tips that, except for specific situations, can help us control stress:

1.- Be aware of the causes of stress, identify the reasons for our discomfort. Try to observe it occurs in specific circumstances (at work) and then disappears in other situations (holidays, weekends, etc.).

2.- Several measures could be applied if stress is connected with work:

a) Prioritise: separate what is urgent from what's important and accept that we cannot handle everything.

b) Don't exaggerate. What we tell ourselves is important. We must try to be positive. Telling ourselves that "we can" minimises the problem and allows us to see it from a different perspective.

3.- Take decisions. We cannot allow stress to paralyse us. We must act and try to go ahead. Most anxiety is caused by not daring to do something.

4.- Be able to accept that to err is human. We can learn more from our mistakes than from what we do right and should not minimise our ability to rectify.

5.- Ask for help. Everything is simpler when we delegate, share, and talk to our colleagues about the tasks and objectives, especially when there is a deadlock.

6.- Learn to say "no". We must put limits, not just personal limits, but also in respect of our bosses and colleagues (know what we are capable of doing).

7.- Learn to relax: we have to accept the possibility of encountering uncontrollable situations. For example, it is absurd to get upset when we are trapped in the middle of a traffic jam.

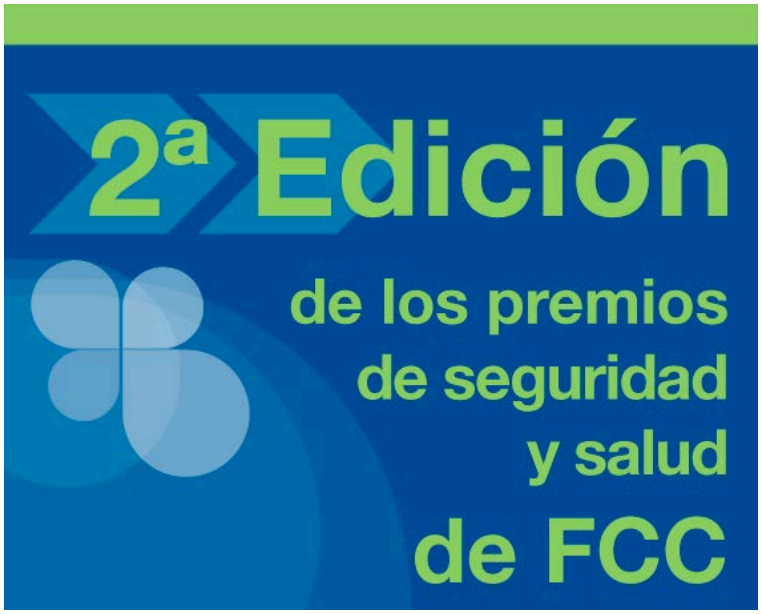
8.- Laugh more, work; it is a mistake to confuse work and any other circumstance with being serious. Controlled laughter is relaxing in certain circumstances.

9.- Taking care of ourselves is important: Sleeping, exercising, and learning how to disconnect is essential and we should try to learn relaxation techniques when necessary. Eating well and enjoying time with our family and friends helps us to achieve our goal and to forget our day-to-day problems.

The treatment for stress could be complicated and the solution may not be easy since it involves personal and external factors that could be difficult to make compatible and, therefore, to control. Being aware of the problem even if only in part and tackling it without any preconceived ideas can help us to identify it and find the solution. In short, it can help us improve the quality of life at work and in other circumstances.

2nd Edition of the FCC Safety and Health Awards

International participation accounted for one third



The 2nd Edition of the Prevention Awards was launched last December in order to reward and to acknowledge the work carried out by FCC employees to improve safety and health protection at our organization.

As in the previous edition, the results were excellent and employees from various organizational structures and business areas participated.

The prizes were broken down into three categories: “Prize for Preventive Management”; “Prize for Technical Innovation”, and “Special Mention for Personal Endeavour” with the first two receiving the greatest number of proposals.

One of the novelties of this edition was that for the first time participation was open to a greater number of organizational structures, business and production units of the FCC Group regardless of their location or nationality. The internationalisation of these awards was highly successful and after the deadline for submitting the proposals was closed, 30% of the total proposals were submitted by employees working abroad.

We take the opportunity to thank the support provided by the Communications Network and especially want to thank the participants for their efforts and for wanting to share their work with the rest of the organisation.

Knowledge

A sign of strength and unity

A great step forward, together, towards a global FCC brand

> “The brand is a company asset, a differentiating factor, and an essential element for the internationalisation process”

Each and every individual who is part of FCC contributes to show, internally and externally, that they are part of a great Group that is committed to the welfare of citizens, a leader in environmental services, water management, and infrastructures. The Company’s image is a key element that determines the perception of the company. The collaboration of all FCC personnel to ensuring that the brand has one single identity and represents the strength and unity of a great services Group will contribute to having the company perceived in the best light so as to maintain and increase its market share.

The Group’s Strategic Plan sets out clear guidelines for the coming years: concentration on three business areas; cost savings, improving profitability, and international expansion. As to this last point, it is essential to have a global brand to increase internal and external recognition and one that can generate more business opportunities.

FCC’s branding strategy seeks to achieve the greatest simplicity in the Group’s brand portfolio, with the corporate matrix as the strengthened masthead of the other business brands.

The goal is to succeed in having FCC’s proposal perceived by clients as the most

Single identity

The brand as such then focuses on a single global identity, applied locally, that will reach the global category and thus enable FCC to:

> Add value to the Group

> Develop a new Group strategy.

> Facilitate its international expansion.

> Generate in-house cohesion and pride in being part of the Group.

attractive alternative in its sector. To achieve this, over the past six months FCC has advanced significantly in two key projects of the Corporate Department of Communications and Corporate Responsibility, and headed by its Corporate Marketing and Brand Department:

> From an external perspective: Strategic Brand Management (Spanish acronym, GEM) for the final formulation of the global brand, its application and development throughout the entire Group.

> From an in-house perspective: a Brand Academy (Brand&You) to develop a plan for in-house dissemination and awareness among the Group's personnel.

External approach

Strategic Brand Management (GEM)

This specific project was launched in the last quarter of 2012. Its objective is to achieve a clear and agreed upon definition of the global brand, by means of a Brand Architecture, in order to achieve a brand that meets the Group's requirements, and to define the Standards and Procedures to enable its implementation.

After more than six months of work, organizing regular meetings chaired by the Corporate Department of Corporate Marketing and Brand, and with the support of external advisors, and thanks to the efforts and collaboration of the GEM Team – a team created specifically for this project comprising FCC professionals representing the various Group activities and involved in brand management in their specific areas – we succeeded in achieving the first milestones of the operating plan:

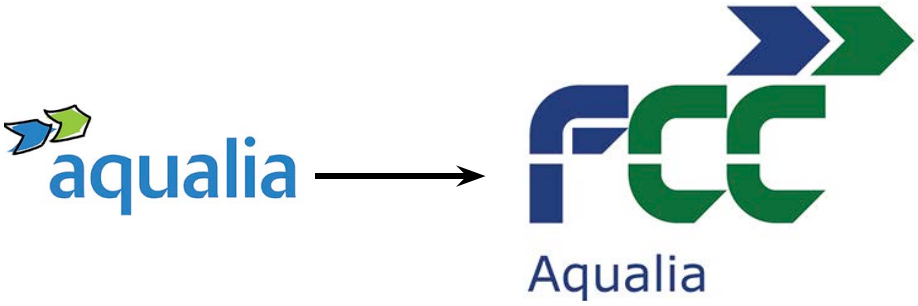
- Analysing the current situation with the existence of more than 150 Group brands.
- Assessing and rating of these brands.
- Analysing competencies at the brand and applications level.
- Defining the new FCC global brand architecture.
- Evaluating the implementation timetable.
- Designing Manuals and Management Procedures.

The main result of the first stage of Strategic Brand Management was the contribution of a new global Group Brand Architecture, with different levels of applications. Henceforth, it will also promote the application standards by means of the FCC Corporate Visual Identity Manual, and will encourage its correct use through the future Brand Management Centre.

The application of each of these cases and of the implementation standards to the various supports will be reflected in the new Corporate Visual Identity Manual.

There are cases, within the currently existing independent brands within the Group that are particularly significant, as analysed in the Strategic Brand Management project and the decision was to integrate these in the global FCC brand using various formulas depending on each specific case.

A significant example is the integration of the Aqualia brand in the new global Brand Architecture.



The integration of the Aqualia brand within the FCC parent brand has many important advantages:

- Bolsters FCC Group as a leader in the Services industry (Environment + Water).
- Strengthens the Aqualia brand as an integral part of a major Group.
- Internationalisation by speedier introduction of the brand in markets where FCC is already operating.
- Greater internal cohesion.
- Mayor cohesión interna.

FCC Global Brand Architecture

FCC is committed to a viable Brand Architecture based on concentration and simplification that is resolved at three levels:

- **Level 1, Corporate: Parent corporate brand:** FCC and its uses, with or without the corporate description (Citizen Services) which will be detailed in the new Corporate Visual Identity Manual.
- **Level 2, Operating: Activity brands.** Focusing, in this case, on the operating business structure, agreeing on the simplification of the number of brands of each of the three Group business areas: Infrastructures, Environmental Services, and Water Management.
- **Level 3, Product or Service.** For social or commercial brands in specific markets or own products/services. Their names are grouped under the corresponding operating brand, without its own graphics formula.

Brand&You Brand Academy

FCC's vision goes beyond its visual identity since it encompasses the strategic idea, assets, culture, people, and programs of the entire organization. That is, the FCC brand needs to be fed on a daily basis by all the people who are part of the Group. Accordingly, to give continuity to the GEM Project, the brand academy, known as Brand&You was created.

Its purpose is to build awareness of the global FCC brand and its attributes among all its employees worldwide, aiming for the greatest possible participation to ensure the maximum in-house dissemination.

This is being carried out by four transversal work teams in various geographical areas and hierarchical levels so as to have the greatest number of Group personnel involved in the project, a sufficiently large sample to be able to manage this project successfully.

As of the second half of 2013 and throughout 2014 bi-monthly meetings will be organized in four Spanish cities and the project will proceed in two major phases:

> **First phase for training.** Focused on training on subjects such as brand management with its attributes, group dynamics, perception and intangible values, structural coordination,...

> **Second phase to implement measures.** The members of the groups, similar to Brand Angels or Brand Ambassadors, will become the drivers among their groups, becoming the spokespersons to describe the progress made in the project through a valuation and ongoing improvement process.

Brand&You is a project linked to the Strategic Plan and will contribute to change management, actively incorporating all FCC personnel in the new Group approach, achieving the participation of everyone in the transformation process.

> "Its purpose is to build awareness among all personnel on the global FCC brand and its attributes"

Training session on industrial and intellectual property rights

As part of the essential task of ensuring the correct management of the Group's brands, a training session was recently held at the Las Tablas FCC headquarters which was jointly organised by the Legal Counsel, management of Corporate Marketing and Brand, and with the collaboration of the Garrigues law firm, under the heading "Intellectual and Industrial Property: brands and dominions".

Representatives of all of the Group's business areas attended the sessions which followed on the wake of the recent approval of the new brand management methodology by the Executive Committee on 17 December and detailed in the document "Policy for creating, registering, and managing brands/denominations", which document is available in intranet.

Several presentations

Various presentations were made during these sessions. Juan Pablo Merino, manager of the Corporate Marketing and Brand Department talked about the importance of globalisation of the FCC brand as support for the Group's new Strategic Plan. Cristina López Barranco, manager of the Mercantile Department of the Legal Counsel explained the need to protect the brand and how to achieve this goal by applying the measures detailed in the "Policy for creating, registering, and managing brands/denominations". The Garrigues IP law firm collaborated at the training session. Fernando Rubiano and João Miranda de Sousa described the main industrial and intellectual property rights (brands, commercial names, designs, models, patents, etc.) and the importance of legally protecting our brand, contemplating the legal aspects to be considered in designing and developing the brand internationalisation strategy.

The objective of this training session was to inform all of the Group's business areas on the importance of working together to protect and to apply the FCC Brand correctly as basic aspects for improving commercial activity and driving the internationalisation process as contemplated in the Strategic Plan.

infraestructuras
medioambiente
agua
En 100 años
prestando servicios
a los ciudadanos
hemos visto cambiar
muchas cosas,
la primera de ellas
al propio ciudadano.
En FCC diseñamos y construimos infraestructuras, recogemos, reciclamos y valorizamos residuos urbanos e industriales, limpiamos calles, cuidamos parques y jardines, mantenemos el mobiliario urbano y gestionamos el agua en 5.000 municipios de todo el mundo desde hace más de 100 años. Al principio éramos unos pocos preocupados porque millones de personas disfrutasen de un lugar mejor donde vivir. Hoy son esos millones de personas los primeros que se preocupan por crear un lugar mejor donde vivir.
Lo estamos haciendo juntos.
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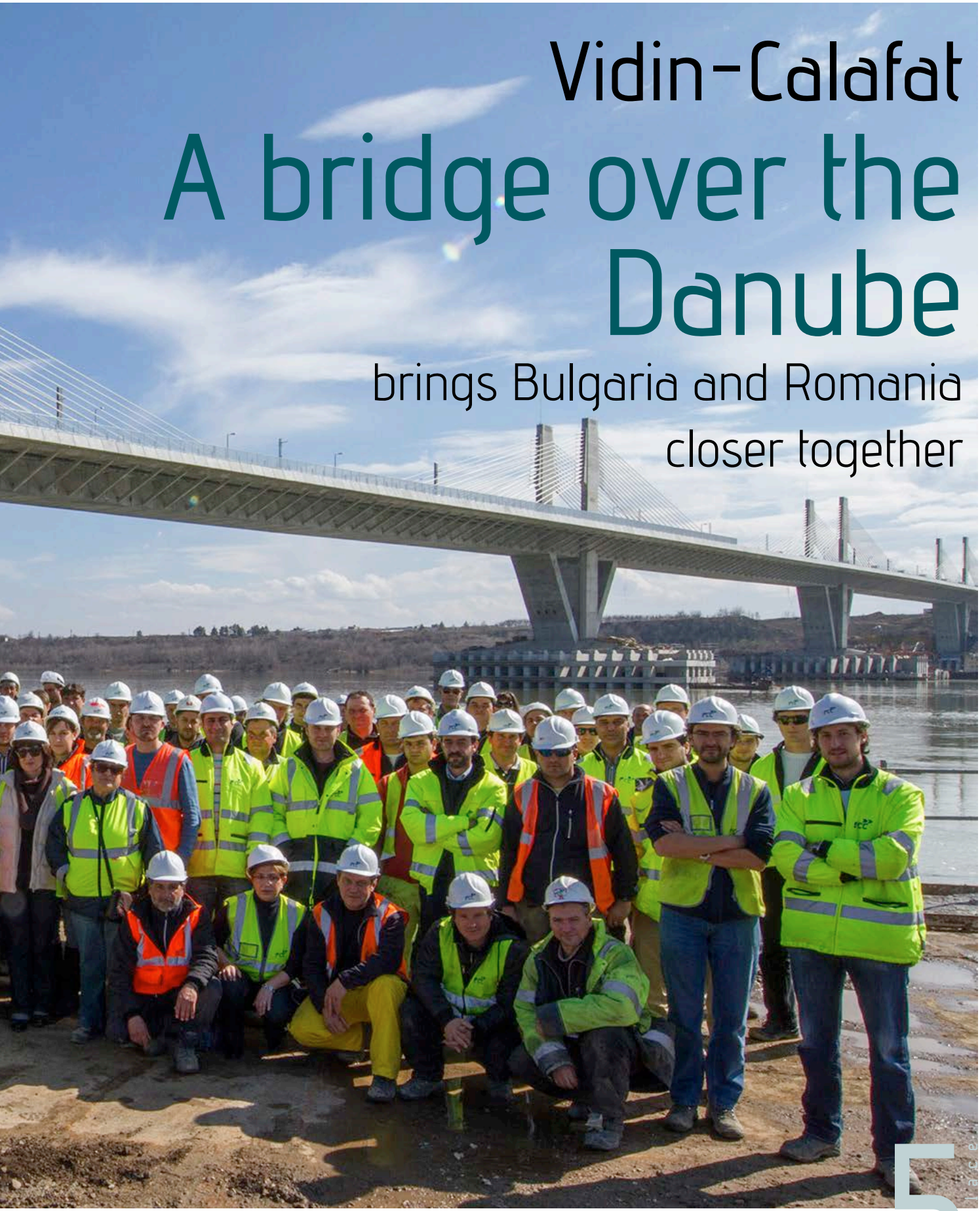
Servicios Ciudadanos

The Place

Vidin-Calafat

A bridge over the Danube

brings Bulgaria and Romania closer together



Pablo, Rafa, Fernando and Jesús meeting at the worksite.

The Vidin-Calafat Bridge, between the Bulgarian and the Romanian border, is also known as the Danube II Bridge. Built by FCC; the infrastructure is part of the fourth Pan-European transport corridor connecting Berlin with Salonika and Istanbul which passes through several European countries.

The lack of bridges connecting both countries is surprising. The 630 kilometre Bulgarian-Romanian border is largely along the River Danube and, until now, there was only one bridge linking the two banks of the river between Giurgiu (Romania) and Ruse (Bulgaria), known initially as the Friendship Bridge and then the Bridge over the Danube.

Bulgaria and Romania are very different countries; even their alphabet is completely different. Romania uses the Latin alphabet while Bulgaria uses the Cyrillic script. They have more in common, however, than it seems: a river which separates them and creates a natural border; a Communist past, and a population that seeks the road of hope through a bridge that will merge both cultures into one.

Value for citizens

The new structure will facilitate relations between both countries. Those who want to cross from one country to the other will be able to it without having to pay or depend on schedules or the queues to take the ferry shuttle to cross the great river.

This bridge could bring in investments that will boost the economy through a new route towards Eastern Europe.

FCC used its own technology for the construction prefabricated segments and cable-stayed bridges which it has develo-

The laboratory team.

Julio Ruiz Cabrero, general manager of Desmond Bridge.

ped and used in numerous infrastructures.

The fundamental construction concept consisted of incorporating a railway and roads in the same bridge; the railway runs along the centre while the roads at each side of the tracks.

The project

It is a Bulgarian project consisting of the construction of a combined bridge, with a total length of 1,791 for the road section and 1,791 metres for the railway. It has four traffic lanes, a railway with a simple elec-

Luis Plaza, head of production of Railway Installations and Fernando Flórez, head of the Technical Office.

trified track, a bike lane, two sidewalks for pedestrians and service, all in a single platform.

The solution of combining road and railway in a single structure was the idea proposed by FCC thanks to which the Bulgarian authorities awarded the contracts to the company.

The bridge consists of three clearly differentiated parts: the viaduct providing access to the railway, on the ground; plus the construction of a bridge consisting of prefabricated segments, 13 spans, in the non-navigable canal, and 189 in the navigable canal.

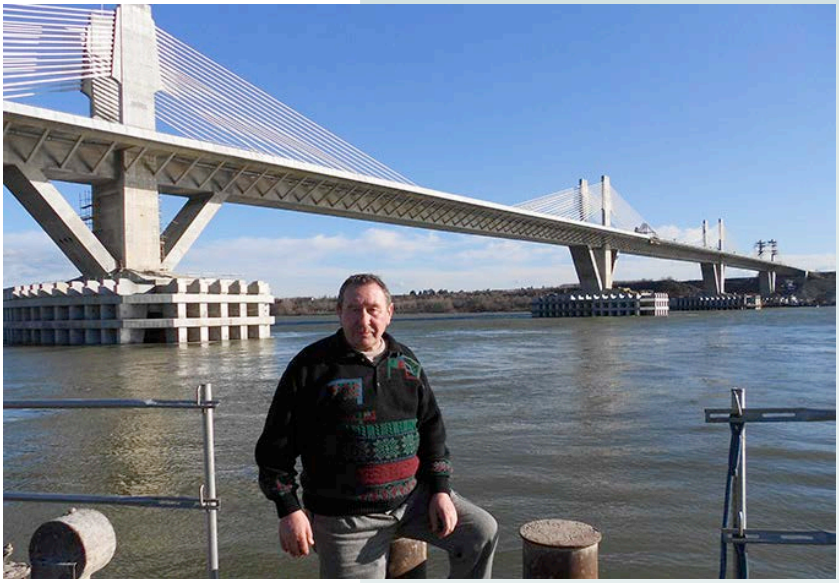
Some anecdotes

Connection to Sophia: Emil is the connection with Sophia, the chauffer who takes and brings back the project workers who have to travel to Sophia. So far, he has done this thousands of times.

Nostalgia: Many of the professionals working at the project have had to leave their families behind in Spain. Argimiro, one of the project managers, and Jesús Rodríguez, head of Production, talk about how difficult this is, although he feels proud of having participated in the construction of the bridge. Every night, Miro, Quini, Jesús, Luis and other colleagues meet for dinner at a restaurant in Vidin which they call the Classic where they watch the Spanish news every day. They need to know what is going on back home and feel connected to Spain.

A crossroad of cultures: The exchange of cultures has been a reality. Spaniards, Bulgarians, Romanians, Portuguese, English, French, and Guineans have worked at the project. In fact, there have been newly-formed couples between Spaniards and Bulgarians, and in some cases, children have been born to these couples. Raúl Zulaica, head of the laboratory has a son named Martin and has learned to speak perfect Bulgarian.

He told us that it all started when he kept asking how to say things in Bulgarian. After five years, he now works with young colleagues at the laboratory and speaks their



Emil, the chauffer, poses in front of the bridge.

Quini and Miró, supervisors.

native language. “You learn Bulgarian because you have to live with them. Now, it’s my second language”, Raul told us.

Christmas tree: María is Bulgarian and also works at the laboratory. This is her first job after graduating from college. Her work consists of analysing samples of the materials used at the project. So many analyses are performed that she decided to build a Christmas tree with all the different sample blocks that they had.

Samuel and Emil hang the martenitza in a fruit tree, as required by tradition.

Martenitza and Baba Marta: This is a Bulgarian holiday that has also been celebrated at the bridge (Baba Marta, the old lady, grandmother Marta) where they exchange what is called martenitza, bracelets made of white and red braided threads that symbolise the arrival of Spring, and the desire for fertility, health, and happiness to those receiving these bracelets. Traditionally, the martenitza is usually worn until the first sighting of a stork in a tree or a tree in bloom announcing the arrival of Spring. At that point, one has to take the bracelet off and hang it in a tree and recite the words “take away my dark and evil winter and bring me the clear and blessed summer”.

María Kalaydzhieva works at the project laboratory.

Victor, Begoña and Beatriz, the Hydraulic Works team.

The managers of the Studies and Contracting and the FCC Construcción Technical Departments who have participated in the project.

The necessary infrastructures for road traffic were also built, including a new freight station, 17 new kilometres of railway, the refurbishment of the existing passenger station, and the execution of seven intersections at different levels.

The bridge was built with European funds from the ISPA (Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-Accession program and finance facilities from the European Investment Bank, from, France and from Germany.

Teamwork

The team of professionals have worked for over five years to make this bridge a reality. More than 1,000 people were involved in the busiest periods of the project.

It was mostly carried out by two project managers: Julio Ruiz Cabrero, who is now working at the Gerald Desmond Bridge in California (U.S.) and Rafael Huerga, who remains in charge of the project, taking care of the finishing touches, with the support of Fernando Flórez, head of the Technical Office.

This has been a transversal project in which many different Group teams have worked. The Studies and Contracting Department was responsible for securing the contract for the project for FCC; the Technical De-

Testimonies

José Ignacio González. Manager of the Structures Department: “A unique structure which made it necessary to address many complications”

Rafael Jiménez. Head of the Department of Bridges. “Technical complexity where there is no room for errors”

Iñaki Díaz de Argote. International Projects Coordination Department. “A very special bond has been created among all of us who have worked on building the bridge”.

Richard Dennis Hart. Technical Department. “An elegant structure”.

José Manuel Gutiérrez Manjón. Manager of the Geotechnics Department. “This experience has provided very useful knowledge for an International Federation of Consulting Engineers project of these characteristics”.

Fernando Flórez Llanos. Head of the Technical Office. “The result is almost outstanding. This is one of the most spectacular current projects in Europe”.

Enrique Rodríguez Prado. Director of Civil Works Studies. “I would highlight its economic and political importance”.

Oscar Bartolomé. Project Supervision Department. “What is underwater is as much or even more than what is at the surface”.

Alberto Vergara. Manager of the Vidin Bridge. “A bridge that brings Europe together”.

Julio Ruiz Cabrero. Manager General Desmond Bridge. “Work, comradeship, efforts, patience, and challenge”.

Adrian Bora. Institutional Relations. “A great achievement, a great help of people that live in Bulgaria and in Rumania”.

partments were involved at all times; and the execution was carried out by the project team with the constant support of the Technical Departments.

There were also synergies among the different Group companies. The project was executed by FCC with the participation of BBR pte, a company specialising in pretensioned segments, and FCC Industrial which was in charge of executing the installations and the fire protection systems.

Rafael Huerga, project manager.

Pablo Fernández. Head of Resources and Equipment. “It has been a pride to work in such a major project”.

Diana Cobos. Head of BBR Projects. “You look at it, realise that you built it, and it fills you with pride”.

Gustavo Delgado. BBR Engineer “This has been the star project of the last five years; this is certainly a unique project”.

Antuan Ngok. In charge of the navigable zone. “Something quite special, something that won’t happen again in my lifetime”.

Sonia Machorska. In charge of Viding Bridge Communications. “Two cultures in one”.

Congratulations for a job well done

The bridge has been visited on several occasions by the Bulgarian prime minister, the ministers of transport of Bulgaria and Romania, and several diplomats from various European countries. The British vice-ambassador in Sophia, Catherine Barber, visited the bridge at the end of January and congratulated the team for such a wonderful achievement.

The Bulgarian railway company sent FCC a letter congratulating the company on the work executed.

The boss and his project

Interview of Rafael Huerga
Head of the Vidin-Calafat Bridge Project

What has been involved in the project?

The project was divided into two contracts: one for the bridge, and one for the railway access. During nearly the entire project, I have been in charge of the railway approaches but since Julio Ruiz left to work at the Gerald Desmond Bridge, I am in charge of the entire project.

What has this experience meant for you?

Professionally, it was a great challenge. This is my first project outside Spain and the first time that I work in another language, with another type of contract, with new people, in a different country. It has been a rewarding experience.

On the personal level, it has been a great experience that has changed my live. I arrived five and a half years ago, I improved my English, I got married, and now I have a daughter.

What were the greatest difficulties?

This is a major project. Two different contracts in a country that we did not know. A country with another work mentality where you are not working 100% when you arrive. You have to recycle, learn something new, try to improve and compensate for

the shortcomings. It involves an additional effort and also that you must overcome barriers, which makes you more motivated to try to solve the problems that arise on a day to day basis.

The River Danube is so big that we had to get to know it before we could start to work. We have used naval resources.

It has been clock-work work. The segments had to be manufactured using the match-cast segment method, with each segment being the formwork of the following one, so that they are joined perfectly.

What do you think about the results?

The results are very positive personally, professionally, and technically. We had a magnificent team. The local people we haired are part of the team and of FCC. Many people from Spain and from other countries have come and they have all performed very well. We worked on double-shifts, even on Saturdays and Sundays. We have to admit that the team's dedication has been top level.

¿What makes FCC different?

FCC knows how to build a project from the time that it arrives until it leaves. We handle the entire construction process with our people. Our managers, our production team, our topographers. In this project, we had to start from zero. We had nothing when we arrived. We rented a nearby quarry and got the material from there. We manufactured the concrete, the aggregates. We set up the prefabricated segment park three kilometres downstream.

We had to face many administrative problems. Nevertheless, after five and a half years, the project is nearly complete. We have all learned a lot from this international experience.

The support of the Technical Services has been fundamental. The project would not have been possible without them. Saturdays, Sundays, or ten o'clock at night, the technical services were always there to give us a hand at all times, solving the problems that kept arising. Iñaki Díaz de Argote, design coordinator, has been fighting for the project 100%.

The solutions provided by the structures, geotechnics, and geology departments, by the department of Water Works, or by the Bridge Department, have been the cornerstones that have made this project a reality, a project that was an engineering challenge from the very beginning.

What would you tell your colleagues about the international experience?

I make myself the following question: Why hasn't everyone left to work outside Spain at least one time. It's a great experience in every sense of the word. Given the current circumstances, we have to start thinking to get experience in the company and in the construction industry, you have to travel and work abroad.

Communities

Photographs provided by:
http://visit.bratislava.sk

Bratislava,

with the Danube as a backdrop

Bratislava, Slovakia's largest city is situated on the banks of the Danube, between Austria and Hungary. This unique location makes it the only capital city in the world bordered by two countries.

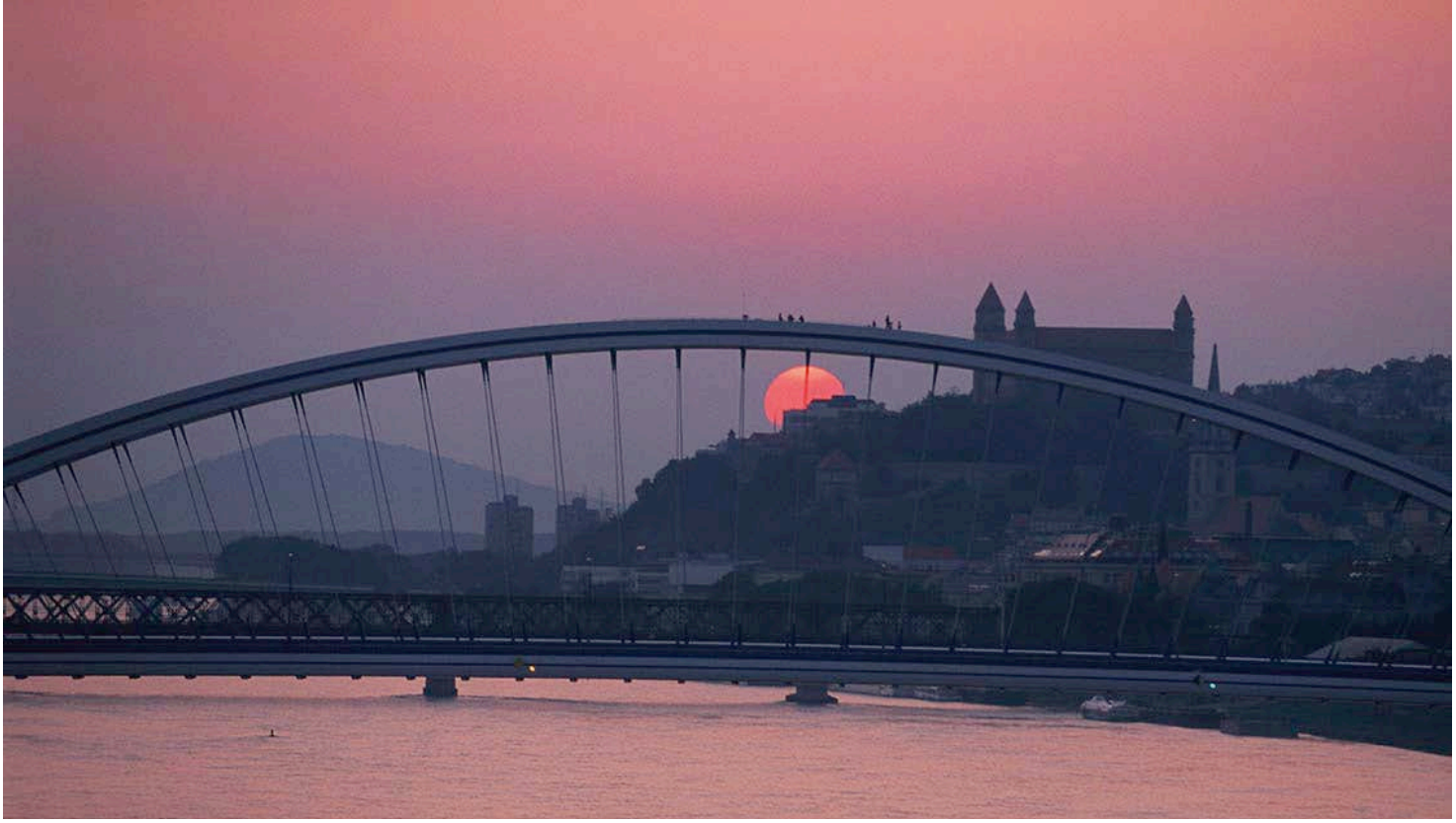
Known as Pressburg to German-speakers or Pozsony to Hungarian-speakers, Bratislava got its present name only 90 years ago. But the city has a long and proud history that dates back to pre-Roman times. The first written reference on the city appears in the Annals of Salzburg in 907 in relation to a battle between Bavarians and Hungarians.

Bratislava is Slovakia's historic and cultural centre par excellence. Nearly 500,000 people make up its current population.

Listening to people speak in the pearl of the Danube, as many call it, is a sign of melody, since the city is considered a musical city where great composers such as Mozart, Beethoven, and Hovel, have left their mark, where they performed and composed many of their masterpieces.

Great artistic, cultural and educational offering

The city's ballet and the National Slovakian Theatre opera are famous worldwide, especially when it comes to classical music. Besides music and opera, Bratislava is the home of more than 20 art galleries where one can admire classic and modern art. Numerous cultural events are organized each year. Among the most famous are the Music and Jazz festivals and the spectacular celebration through the city's streets on New Year's Eve.



A castle with a lot of history

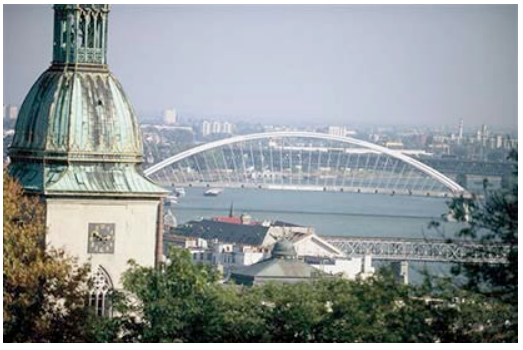
Bratislava Castle, a symbol of domination and hegemony, sits on a hill overlooking the city's historic district. Hungary, Austria and the Danube Valley can be seen from the castle's fortifications.

At the end of the Stone Age, the hill was populated by Celts who built a settlement known as Oppidum. Afterwards, and for many centuries, the castle was a fortress, head of the General Seminary during the government of Joseph II and was used later as a military garrison.

It was rebuilt on numerous occasions and was transformed from the Gothic to the Renaissance style and then evolved into the Baroque style. In 1811 the castle was destroyed by fire and was not rebuilt until 1953-1968.

The city has many palaces, including the Primacial, the Pálffy, and the Grassalkovich palaces, some of which are currently used as art galleries.

The highlights of this city on the Danube, however, are not limited to its castles and



Famous vineyards

For many centuries, the area surrounding the city of Bratislava has been famous for its vineyards. Since the Middle Ages, wines from Bratislava have been exported and served at the tables of Europe's royal courts.

palaces. Strolling through the historic district and admiring its streets, buildings, and squares, sitting in one of its many cafeterias in the midtown district and enjoying a cup of coffee are among the city's delights, as well as visiting its famous museums, including the Art Museum, the Watch Museum, or the Pharmacy Museum.

A walk along the two banks of the Danube highlights the two different cultures of this welcoming city, one with a historic district full of medieval towers and the other one, where the Communist regime left its mark with concrete housing blocks. The Ufo tower is located there, a former Communist border post from which the entire city was controlled. It can be reached through the New Bridge, built between 1967 and 1972.

The best panoramic views of the city and its fabulous restaurant can be enjoyed from its 95 metre high tower

Curious sights in the city

Bratislava has a lovely historic district dotted with bronze street statues that contribute a note of humour and colour. These include:

The paparazzi photographer. Strollers in the historic district of Bratislava are attracted by a statue in human scale. Looking from a corner of the street with his camera held in his hands, the statue seems to be taking pictures of a celebrity.

The soldier from Napoleon's army. One of the most popular spots for taking pictures is the bronze statue of a Napoleonic soldier leaning on a bench in the Main Square (Hlavné námestie) in the city's historic district.

Miranda. No other city in the world has a statue coming out of the sewer. After "Miranda" lost his head on two occasions, because of careless drivers, the city's authorities decided to give him a hand and installed a very original traffic sign to warn drivers.

.A.S.A. in Bratislava

.A.S.A.'s Slovensko spol. s.r.o. headquarters in Slovakia are located in the capital city of Bratislava. Several departments, including accounting, major clients, procurement control and management, and several others are located in the city. In addition, the Company's Department for Promotion, Communication, Future Development Projects are also located in the country's capital.

Recopap, a Smurfit Kappa Sturovo and .A.S.A. partnership is also in Bratislava. Recopap engages in waste management, including paper, bottles, and plastic containers from industrial, commercial, or individual clients.

The company operates a waste management facility in Bratislava.

The headquarters of .A.S.A. Technické sluzby, A.S.A. Slovensko's technical services, are also located in Bratislava. This division is the main provider of public services in the city. Its wide range of services includes road cleaning and maintenance (national and local) in the winter as well as during the summer months. It also manages the cleaning and maintenance services for pedestrian and service areas, and also supplies drinking water and water for irrigation purposes and for maintenance of public services.

Schoner Naci, a unique character and a social institution in the life of Bratislava. His real name was Ignác Lamar and he became famous for strolling around the city's streets dressed up in his elegant tailcoat and top hat.

Caganer. A small carved statue of a naked man in front of a house. According to one of the legends, the original idea was to make fun of the owner of the house who used to spy and watch those who passed by through a peephole in a small window.