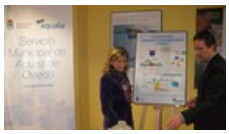
Portland Valderrivas wins the Madrid Regional Government's European Excellence Award

Presentation of a WREN-funded biodiversity project

Portland Valderrivas and the Adecco Foundation organise volunteer event

Ocular fatigue, the first sign of visual tiredness

How do we restore a gravel exploitation area?



Remote management solutions for large water consumers, a sustainable project

We take a tour of the Mar de Aneto floating dock in Algeciras, Cadiz

Oviedo, a reference worldwide

The prevention of occupational hazards, a corporate commitment

The local Salamanca police force gives award to an FCC employee

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The award highlights the environment-friendly aspects of the El Alto plant which started operations since 1972

Portland Valderrivas wins the Madrid Regional Government's European Excellence Award

The panel of judges highlighted the environmental aspects of the El Alto factory in Morata de Tajuña (Madrid)

The prize was presented at the Madrid Regional Government headquarters in a ceremony presided over by President Esperanza Aguirre. Dieter Kiefer, Chairman and CEO of Cementos Portland Valderrivas, collected the award.

Cementos Portland Valderrivas' El Alto factory, which spans 60 hectares, has been operational since 1972, when it commenced production of cement using the dry process. El Alto currently has three cement production lines: two grey (each producing 3,500 tonnes/day) and one white (1,000 tonnes/day), making it the largest cement factory in Spain.

El Alto produces six types of grey cement and three white, all of which have "N" certification from AENOR. Total cement sales in 2009 exceeded 1.4 million tonnes, for which 1.6 million tonnes of limestone and 96,000 tonnes of clay were extracted from the quarry.

As part of the Company's commitment to the environment, the El Alto facilities are monitored by an Environmental Management System which oversees the environmental aspects of production. The factory also has the EMAS seal of environmental excellence and is the only cement plant with an energy management system certified to the UNE-EN 6001 standard.

Portland Valderrivas is also a pioneer in measuring environmental aspects of its activity. In 2004, it was the first industrial company to provide a real-time environmental metric feed to the Madrid regional government, as President Aguirre noted when presenting the award.

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Ver carrusel

En la imagen, el presidente y consejero delegado de FCC, Baldomero Falcones, hace entrega del premio Fomento a la Innovación a Werner Watznauer, director general de ALPINE Holding GmbH.

FCC gives 2009 Fomento Quality and Fomento Innovation Awards

FCC ha procedido a la entrega de los Premios Fomento de la Calidad a la obra excelente del año 2009, en los apartados de obra civil y de edificación, y el Premio Fomento de la Innovación 2009 en un acto celebrado el pasado día 28 de mayo en Torre Picasso.

Las obras y el proyecto de I+D+i que este año han recibido los galardones otorgados por el Comité de Sostenibilidad de FCC Construcción, han sido:
Premio Fomento de la Calidad a la obra excelente del año 2009 en Obra Civil al Nuevo Acceso al Muelle de Maliaño en Santander, perteneciente a la Zona VIII y realizada por la Delegación Norte.

Caja Mágica

Premio Fomento de la Calidad a la obra excelente del año 2009 en Edificación a la Caja Mágica, perteneciente a la Zona II y realizada por las Delegaciones Madrid Edificación I y Madrid Edificación III.

Plataforma de trabajo de longitud variable

Premio Fomento a la Innovación 2009 a Plataforma de trabajo de longitud variable, especialmente diseñada para andamiajes deslizantes, desarrollada por la filial austriaca ALPINE.

El acto de entrega ha estado presidido por Baldomero Falcones, Presidente y Consejero Delegado de FCC, acompañado por José Mayor, Presidente de FCC Construcción, y por varios Consejeros y altos directivos de FCC y ha contado con la asistencia de los equipos de obra y de proyecto premiados y numerosos invitados.

Durante la entrega intervinieron los representantes de las obras y proyecto premiados glosando los aspectos más destacados de sus realizaciones. El representante de la obra Nuevo Acceso al Muelle de Maliaño resaltó el aspecto social del proyecto, ya que el tráfico de vehículos pesados, con origen o destino en los muelles de Maliaño, así como los pasos a nivel del ferrocarril, constituían un riesgo para la seguridad vial de la principal zona urbana de Santander, Castilla-Hermida, además de producir impactos de ruido, contaminación y congestión de calles.

A su juicio, la obra objeto del premio es un perfecto ejemplo de colaboración entre instituciones en la que la Autoridad Portuaria de Santander junto con Puertos del Estado, el Gobierno de Cantabria y el Ayuntamiento de Santander llegaron a un acuerdo de financiación a partes iguales en 2004.

El representante de la obra Caja Mágica puso de manifiesto la ilusión con la que acometieron el proyecto, ya que se trataba de participar en un sueño que era de todos, el sueño olímpico, del cual la Caja Mágica era la bandera de la candidatura.

También indicó que la obra hace honor a su nombre, puesto que a la Caja la hizo Mágica el extraordinario equipo de los Servicios Técnicos de FCC Construcción que, con su dominio de la técnica han dotado de vida a esas cubiertas que singularizan el edificio que hoy en día constituye un referente, a nivel mundial, para los grandes complejos deportivos multifuncionales y que lleva el sello inequívoco de FCC.

Por último, el representante del proyecto de i+D+i premiado resaltó la simplicidad, a

pesar de la gran complejidad técnica que entraña, y la versatilidad de la plataforma de trabajo de longitud variable especialmente diseñada para andamiajes deslizantes, que ha sido utilizada con éxito en la construcción de la Central Térmica de Neurath, en Alemania.

Jefe de obra honorífico

Tras la entrega de distinciones el Presidente de FCC Construcción glosó los méritos de las obras y proyecto premiados, así como los valores personales y profesionales de José Enrique Bofill y Francisco Varona que, tras una larga trayectoria en la compañía han recibido este año el nombramiento de jefe de obra honorífico.

La clausura del acto corrió a cargo del Presidente y Consejero Delegado de FCC que, además de felicitar a los premiados, resaltó la importancia de los Premios dentro de la política de mejora continua existente en la empresa.

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FCC participates in Erasmus recruiting programme

The Human Resources Department, via the Recruitment and Employment Department, is participating in the Erasmus recruiting programme. This innovative project to attract talent and involves companies, universities and students. The goal is to facilitate contact with students who have participated in the Erasmus student exchange programme or other university international exchange programmes (Spaniards in other countries, or foreigners in Spain).

The project was launched with an advertising campaign inviting students to enter their data on an online platform that could be accessed by participating companies. The goal is to identify candidates for future employment by FCC, especially for its international projects. The programme will be developed by several measures, including scholarships and internships.

This initiative makes it easier for FCC to reach a group of students with great potential and qualities that may be a perfect fit for a diversified, international company such as FCC. These candidates' international academic experience improves their foreign language abilities and contributes to other skills, including initiative, adaptability, flexibility, problem solving, autonomy, dynamism, relationship development, communication skills, tolerance, and other qualities.

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FCC and Citroën wager on electric cars

FCC and AUTOMOVILES CITRÖEN SPAIN signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at FCC headquarters in Torre Picasso. The MoU calls for preliminary studies and research into electric cars and negotiations regarding a potential supply of electric vehicles for FCC's "e-mobility" initiative in Spain.

Both parties expressed interest in exchanging information on AUTOMOVILES CITRÖEN SPAIN's electric vehicles and FCC's mobility project, which includes assessing electric vehicle technology and charging station infrastructure and analysing consumer needs in terms of electric mobility. These electric vehicles would be used by various areas of the company in place of conventional vehicles, therefore contributing to sustainable development and environmental protection.

As company that provides services to the community, FCC is willing to make commitments to environmental responsibility and to promote initiatives which reduce the environmental impact of its activities.

The agreement contemplates the creation of a research team comprised of representatives from both companies to evaluate and monitor all the studies that are carried out.

FCC is the parent company of one of Europe's leading community services groups in terms of both revenues and profitability. It has traditionally focused on growth through diversification: originally founded as a construction company, in 1911 it branched out into municipal services with a contract to clean and maintain Barcelona's sewer network.

Its business portfolio is now highly diversified. FCC's core businesses are environmental services and water management, construction of large infrastructure, cement production, and renewable energy production.

It has a footprint in 54 countries worldwide and over 44% of its revenues are generated outside Spain (mainly Europe and the US). Revenues in 2009 amounted to 12.7 billion euro and the group's workforce totals 92,324 employees.

AUTOMÓVILES CITRÖEN SPAIN is the leading supplier of passenger cars and commercial vehicles under 5 tonnes in Spain. CITROËN, which has a long-standing policy to reduce fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, is a leading brand in environmental terms. For example, 42% of CITROËN vehicles sold in Europe emit less than 130g/km of CO2. Versions of the CITROËN C3 and DS3 models which emit 99g/km of CO2 are currently available.

Electric propulsion is one of the options CITROËN is developing with a view to achieving ecological mobility. The launch of C-Zero, scheduled for the first quarter of 2011 in Spain, will make CITROËN one of the first companies in Europe to have an electric car on the market.

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Torre Picasso, the first skyscraper in Madrid to add power sockets for electric cars

The Torre Picasso office building in downtown Madrid is the first in the city to offer parking spaces with power sockets for recharging electric vehicles.

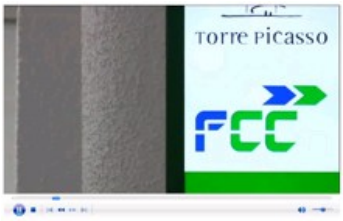
The move is in line with the building's commitment to the environment; it will gradually install sockets throughout its parking garage in response to demand.

The system enables a vehicle battery to be fully recharged in 6-8 hours. The new power sockets installed in Torre Picasso will be compatible with all vehicle brands and models.

FCC is the sole owner of Torre Picasso, which has 121,000 square metres of floor space. The building is a landmark in Madrid. Its high-tech design makes it one of the most comfortable, most efficient and safest smart buildings in Europe.

Standing 157 metres tall, Torre Picasso has 43 floors above grade. It has been a symbol of modern Madrid since its inauguration in 1989, and it is now the first skyscraper in Madrid to offer recharging facilities for electricity vehicles at no cost in the initial phase.

Torre Picasso is engaged in an ongoing process of upgrading its facilities and of implementing new services for its clients. It is strongly committed to sustainable development and the environment based on strict compliance with the corresponding legislation in all areas of action under its ISO 14001-certified Environmental Management System. Occupancy was practically 100% in 2009.



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See Annual Report

AGM with zero CO2 emissions

The first FCC AGM with zero-emissions. Emissions generated by the meeting will be offset by planting an equivalent proportion of trees in urban areas.

Baldomero Falcones, FCC chairman and Ceo during his speech at the AGM

Appointments and dividends

The shareholders approved the appointment as independent directors of Henri Proglio (Chairman of French utility EDF) and Javier Ribas and the reappointment of the following as proprietary directors: Dominum Dirección y Gestión, Cartera Deva, Larranza XXI, Robert Peugeot, Fernando Falcó y Fernández de Córdova, Marcelino Oreja, Juan Castells and Antonio Pérez Colmenero. Gonzalo Anes was reappointed as independent director, and Felipe García as executive

The AGM convened in Barcelona on 27 May 2010

FCC expects to generate 60% of its revenues abroad by 2013

Baldomero Falcones, Chairman and CEO, stated at the AGM that international sales in 2013 will increase from the current 44% to 60% of total revenues. To achieve this objective, the Company will focus a a limited number of countries with a positive financial profile in order to mitigate operational risks.

FCC has outlined a target for 2013: generate 60% of its revenues abroad in 2013 as compared to 44% at year-end 2009. This internationalisation process is one of the Group's key objectives, as underlined by Baldomero Falcones, Chairman and CEO of FCC in his speech at the AGM held on 27 May in Barcelona.

The infrastructure division is expected to exceed the proportion of 60% of revenues from international activities. To achieve this goal, the Group, which provides services to the community, and whose main shareholder is Esther Koplowitz, will focus on a small number of countries with a positive financial profile so as to reduce operating risks.

Baldomero Falcones also noted that the growth strategy will focus on environmental services and end-to-end water management by carefully branching out from markets where already enjoys a strong positioning towards other markets and related activities in which FCC has broad experience and expertise.

FCC's backlog is another source of strength going forward. At the end of the first quarter, the Group had expanded its backlog by 7.2% to 37.036 billion euro; the backlog outside Spain expanded 18.6%. This backlog represents almost three years' revenues.

Services and renewable energies

FCC's growth drivers are services and renewable energies. In the first quarter, EBITDA from those activities totalled 172.4 million euro, 14.4% higher than in first quarter of 2009. Environmental services and renewable energies increased their contribution in the quarter to 57.9% of EBITDA. Both activities are recurring and non-cyclical in nature, thereby offsetting exposure to sectors affected by the crisis.

With regard to today's global economic difficulties, Mr Falcones stated: "FCC is in a solid position. We are operating in sectors subject to rapid growth and rising demand outside Spain, such as infrastructure, environmental services and renewable energies". This strategy will enable the Group to maintain its net profit target for 2010 "despite the ongoing crisis". Debt was 3.45 times EBITDA at the end of 2009, which Falcones commented was "in tune with recurring revenues and cash flow".

He also highlighted other FCC strengths: its stable and committed shareholder structure, geographic and sector diversification, and the quality of its human capital, which he credited with enabling the company to compete in international markets.

Costs and procurement system

Mr Falcones also discussed the various internal reform projects being implemented. Corporate departments are implementing policies based on information systems which seek to create synergies and provide the different business areas with strategies and tools that improve competitiveness.

Consolidation of all of the Group's procurements was approved at the end of the year with a view to enhancing bargaining power and increasing savings at individual business and consolidated level. The new procurement policy is based on an integrated electronic system.

These policies, the results of which are already reflected in company's financial statements, will gradually generate savings throughout the organisation, both in Spain and abroad.

director.
The Meeting of Shareholders approved a final dividend of 0.715 euro per share; an interim dividend for the same amount was paid in January. Accordingly, the total dividend in 2010 amounts to 1.43 euro, representing 59% payout, in line with last year, and totalling a total disbursement of 167.38 million euro. The final dividend will be paid on 7 June.
The shareholders also empowered the Board of Directors to issue fixed-income securities or debt instruments of a similar nature, secured or unsecured, amounting to at most 500 million euro, as well as bonds convertible to or exchangeable for shares, for a maximum sum of 300 million euro. The issues are part of the financial diversification policy implemented in 2009. In October 2009, FCC successfully placed 450 million euro in convertible bonds; it is the first company in the industry to use this type of instrument.

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Queen Noor of Jordan presided the ceremony. On the left, Miguel Jurado, the General Deputy-Director of Aqualia's Development and International collected the price. On the left, Tamer Shafik, Deputy-Director of Sales at Orascom Construction Industries (OCI).

Aqualia wins award for financial closure of New Cairo sewage plant in Egypt

The award, from prestigious international journal Global Water Intelligence (GWI), is for the greatest contribution to the development of public-private partnerships anywhere in the world.

The project to finance, design, build and operate the New Cairo sewage plant in Cairo, Egypt, was awarded to the Orasqualia consortium, which is comprised 50% each by , FCC's specialised water management subsidiary, and Egyptian company Orascom Construction Industries (OCI). The 20-year concession contract represents a backlog of over 360 million euro.

The award, presented at a ceremony in Paris yesterday presided by Queen Noor of Jordan, was collected by Miguel Jurado, 's Subdirector General of Development and International, and Tamer Shafik, Commercial Subdirector at Orascom Construction Industries (OCI).

The award recognises not only the fact that this is the first PPP project awarded in Egypt, in any industry, but also the speed with which financial closure was attained, a record 7 months.

Four banks participated in the pool: National Société Générale Bank SAE (NSGB), Commercial International Bank (CIB) Egypt SAE, Arab African International Bank SAE and Ahli United Bank (Egypt) SAE. NSGB acted as agent bank and CIB as custodian. Baker & McKenzie is the project's legal advisor.

These awards, the most important in the water industry worldwide, had already recognised Aqualia's work in 2007 when it was named Worlds Best Water Management Company of the Year.

First contract in the North African country

The New Cairo plant, which will process sewage from over one million people, is the first contract in Egypt and is another step in the company's international expansion, which is focused particularly on North Africa, an area where it is already building two of the continent's largest desalination plants, in Mostaganem and Cap Djinet (both in Algeria). Aqualia carries out intensive commercial activities in this region in countries such as Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia, participating in several tender processes for new water infrastructures. In the Middle East, the company has opened a business development office in the United Arab Emirates; it has projects under way in the UAE, as well as Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Saudi Arabia, where there are prospects for major business opportunities in the coming years.

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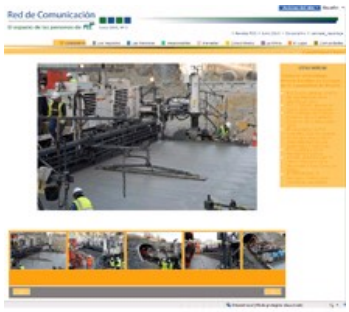

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See presentation

FEATURE REPORT: Concrete road surface makes a comeback in Spain

The Cementos Portland Valderrivas Group, FCC's cement subsidiary, decided that sustainability can be achieved by improving environmental management and through the fight against climate change, focused mainly on improving energy efficiency, material and energy recycling of by-products and waste, and investigating alternative fuels other than the traditionally used fossil fuels.

Concrete surface technology has made some dizzying progress in the last 15 years, so far as to have replaced traditional asphalt surfaces in the construction of dual carriageways in numerous developed countries (including the U.S., Belgium, Austria, Germany, and Argentina). FCC has broad experience in concrete surface laying through its Austrian subsidiary Alpine, which has applied this solution in numerous projects in central Europe.

FCC conducted a demonstration of rigid road surface at the site of the work to twin, upgrade and generally improve road C-17 in Barcelona. FCC was accompanied at the demonstration by the Department of Territorial Policy and Public Works of Catalonia and its publicly owned company Gestión de Infraestructura (GISA). The surface demonstration project, an FCC Group initiative, concluded as a resounding success after several days' work. The surface was laid on a section of the road where Les Masies de Voltregà and the junction with road BV-4655 are located. The section is a kilometre long and includes stretches outdoors as well as in tunnels. The new roadway has two 3.5-metre-wide lanes, a one-metre-wide inner verge and a 2.5-metre-wide outer verge.

The surface was built by placing 25 centimetres of concrete on top of a 25-centimetre layer of cement-stabilised material to form the crown on top of the graded area.

Between the two layers, five centimetres of hot bituminous mixture was poured to keep water from infiltrating the joints. Water would combine with the action of traffic to reduce the graded surface's bearing capacity and stability, causing damage to the graded area and negative repercussions for surface durability.

Traditionally, the production and use of cement has been considered a pollutant activity. Just 20 years ago, cement factories were associated with the dust that surrounded these facilities and, in this last decade, as a result of the Kyoto Protocol, it is directly associated with climate change since it is responsible for 5% of all CO2 emissions.

Cementos Portland Valderrivas is currently the only cement group awarded the ISO 14001 environmental certification and the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) certification for all its factories in Spain, underscoring (since this audit is conducted by external auditors) its commitment to the environment which goes beyond compliance with current regulations.

Because of its specific production processes, the cement activity generates a large amount of CO2 emissions. Accordingly, one of our main concerns is reducing these emissions in production processes.

We are tackling this issue in several ways, one of which is by using raw materials which are more decarbonated, focusing on increasing energy savings and efficiency, and replacing fossil fuels with alternative ones.

Last year in Spain, the Group took firm steps towards an energy recycling policy at its cement plants. This activity is quite important for the environment since it reduces emissions doubly; those from the replaced fossil fuels and those from alternative fuels some of which, if not used in this manner (most of these, unfortunately) would be sent to landfill sites, as well as by reducing some air pollutants such as nitrogen oxide.

Therefore, we are convinced that this environmental improvement also benefits society since means making use of something which, if not used, would be considered merely waste.

If cement had been a part of the problem of climate change up to now, today it is certainly willing to be part of the solution. This is possible since concrete, derived from cement, is the second most used product in the world after water. This means that, not just the production process, but its design, will contribute to making this material play a key role in new markets as a result of climate change, to mitigate CO2 emissions, as well as in policies to adapt to this change (infrastructures to protect against extreme natural phenomena, which, as natural catastrophes, are the result of such climate change).

Towards this end, Cementos Portland Valderrivas is working on:

- Promoting concrete road surfaces as an economic, ecological, and social alternative, as well as greater use of concrete use in highways, roads, rural roads since concrete is intrinsically superior to asphalt in terms of sustainability: greater durability, limited energy footprint, greater reduction of CO2 emissions from heavy vehicles, less noise pollution, etc. In addition, since the product is produced nationally, it does not depend on mechanisms as speculative as those that affect petroleum.
- Developing special cements that provide differentiated services and contribute to solving current problems. These special cements include: microcement for waterproofing tunnels; natural cement, ultracement, concrete for refrigeration

towers, for desalination plants, or used as support for offshore wind farms; stabilisation/solidification cement that can be used to immobilise soil contaminants; flash cement for rapid repair of infrastructures, such as airport landing strips, and many other uses.

- These and other initiatives (construction materials to improve thermal insulation to increase the energy efficiency of built or rehabilitated buildings, etc.) are part of the investigation lines being pursued by the Cementos Portland Valderrivas R+D division in recent years, aware the very near future is in these fields.

The advantages of concrete

Concrete surfaces have recognised advantages, which testify to their being one of the best solutions not only technically, but economically and environmentally as well.

Some of the advantages are well known, including include concrete's long useful life in different climates and service conditions, its low maintenance cost, its ease of construction with simple, energy-efficient equipment, its stability and anti-slip features and its resistance to aggressive agents. In addition, there are the reflective qualities of concrete, which mean that a concrete surface provides much better night-time visibility and thus safer driving conditions.

In its publication entitled, "Concrete Roads: A Smart and Suitable Choice", the European Concrete Paving Association brings international experience to the fore to show that concrete paving is a viable solution for attaining sustainable construction, and that it satisfies the basic requirements of environmental, economic and social friendliness.

Nowadays, experts consider that concrete paving needs to be used more often.

Concrete is a one-hundred-percent recyclable material and one of the strongest road-building solutions there is.

In addition, because concrete does not warp, it reduces vehicle fuel consumption by an average of 3.5% for heavy vehicles and 1.2% for light vehicles. That means lower CO_2 emissions.

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Presentation of a WREN-funded biodiversity project

Daniel Roche, the child actor who plays the leading role in the popular British sitcom "Outnumbered", announced the financial aid provided by a 10 million pounds sterling biodiversity development fund accompanied by one of his favourites animals: a toad.

The young actor, who plays the mischievous Ben in this greatly successful BBC sitcom, played his role to the hilt with the toad after the Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN) group, which finances this fund, announced the 10 projects that will be receiving support from the Biodiversity Action Fund (BAF).

WREN is a not for profit business that awards grants to community, environmental and heritage projects across the UK from funds donated by Waste Recycling Group (WRG) as part of a voluntary environmental tax credit scheme called the Landfill Communities Fund. Since 1988, WREN has granted over 130 million pounds to more than 5,000 projects which benefit people living within 10 miles of a WRG landfill site.

This money will contribute to protecting several essential habitats for flora and fauna in Great Britain and includes almost a total 200,000 pounds for the British NGO, Froglife, for creating and recovering ponds throughout various urban zones throughout the country.

The cash comes from the landfill tax credits generated by Waste Recycling Group's landfill operations and which are administered by WREN.

The young ten-year-old actor, who is about to start filming a new BBC series of Just William, said it was brilliant being so close to an amphibian.

The NGO Froglife will use WREN's grant to launch a new urban pond project in Scotland. Similar schemes have already been a great success in Cambridgeshire and London.

The large-scale urban pond creation project north of the border in Glasgow will restore a stronghold environment for many nationally protected pond species. It will also give children living in urban areas the rare chance to get up close to creatures like frogs and toads – once common sights in gardens and parks throughout the United Kindom.

Kathy Wormald, chief executive of Froglife, said WREN's funding will directly increase the amphibian population of Scotland by restoring and introducing priority habitats.

"The UK's frog, toad and newt population is under threat as ponds decline at a dramatic rate," she added.

"In the UK more than one third of ponds have disappeared in the latter half of the last century and most of those that remain are thought to be in 'poor' or 'very poor' condition*. We campaign to do everything possible to restore these habitats so that children, like Daniel, can continue to learn about these precious British creatures."

Baroness Young added: "2010 is the official International Year of Biodiversity, an important time to highlight the serious biodiversity issues that the UK faces. Funding from WREN and the Landfill Communities Fund is playing a key role in hitting Biodiversity Action Plan targets and is restoring rich, vibrant, precious habitats throughout the UK, helping diverse species like water voles, bitterns, butterflies and of course frogs and toads, to survive and thrive."

The 10 biodiversity projects to receive funding from WREN this year include:

- Cumbria Wildlife Trust (131,589 pounds) to maintain, improve, expand and create habitats for juniper;
- The National Trust (224,583 pounds) to sustain and enhance floodplain grazing marshland in Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire;
- West Glamorgan Commoners Association (213,862 pounds) to connect, conserve and enhance heathland, purple moorgrass and rush pasture;
- RSPB (250,000 pounds) to enhance, restore and improve 135 hectares of wetland habitat and floodplain in Lochwinnoch;
- The Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales (139,711 pounds) to bring 100 hectares of purple moor grass and rhos pasture under management to help wildlife to thrive;
- The Woodland Trust (250,000 pounds) for restoration of ancient woodland in Cumbria;
- Butterfly Conservation (233,774 pounds) landscape restoration of limestone grasslands on the North Yorkshire Moors to secure habitats for Duke of Burgundy and Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterflies;
- Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (107,494 pounds) creation of and enhancement of reedbeds to encourage bittern snipe and water voles;
- Froglife (190,687 pounds) for the Glasgow Living Water project, to create, restore and promote ponds in Glasgow and North Lanarkshire for the benefit of reptiles and amphibians;
- Sheffield Wildlife Trust (238,107 pounds) create and restore priority habitats of meadow, heathland, ancient woodland and grassland to create a ecologically-functional network.

* Figures taken from The Ponds Report 2010 available fromhttp://www.froglife.org/habitats/haps.htm

Volunteer program

The Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) is a voluntary scheme which enables landfill operators to contribute some of the tax raised on the disposal of waste in landfill to Environmental Bodies (EBs) who can then fund community, heritage and environmental projects which comply with the Landfill Tax Regulations.

FCC's subsidiary in the U.K.

WRG, a leading UK waste management and energy recovery company, is part of FCC, the international infrastructure, environmental services and energy group (www.fcc.es). FCC in the UK comprises WRG and Focsa Services (UK) Ltd. Focused on delivering integrated waste management and energy recovery solutions to meet national, regional and local needs, WRG operates facilities for the reception, recycling and disposal of waste, including a network of waste transfer and recycling centres and a regional network of landfill sites.

WRG donates the LCF tax credits that are generated by its operations to WREN, in order to add value to the environmental and social infrastructure of the communities around landfill sites.

WRG donates the LCF tax credits that are generated by its operations to WREN, in order to add value to the environmental and social infrastructure of the communities around landfill sites.

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Tomás Río Seco collects the award from the local police force.

The local Salamanca police force gives award to an FCC employee

The local Salamanca police force gave Tomás Río Seco, a job supervisor attached to FCC's cleaning services in Salamanca, an award for his selfless collaboration with the municipal security forces to ensure the city's cleanliness for the benefit of its residents.

Tomás joined FCC as a street sweeper in 1999. He performed administrative functions from 2003 to 2008 and in May of 2009, started to work as a job supervisor at the cleaning department.

His main function is organising the street cleaning and waste collection services, in terms of workers and equipment, surveillance, control, and communication with the environmental staff at Salamanca's City Council to ensure compliance with the services contract.

His greatest satisfaction is to know that the work is performed well and that it meets the goals defined to ensure that the city of Salamanca is always clean.

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From left to right, the job supervisor Pfurner and seven of the interns working at the project followed by Wibmer, the supervisor's aide, and Heregger, head of the project, in front of the SOS Children's Village house currently under construction.

26 new homes to be built as part of the family village.

ALPINE apprentices build a home for the Children's Village in East Tyrol.

The Nussdorf-Debant SOS Children's Village in East Tyrol, the second oldest village in the world run by this organization, is currently being refurbished by Alpine interns.

Twenty-six new units to form part of a family village will be built and ALPINE is building the structure of one of the houses by fifteen interns taking turns at the site, under expert professional supervision. Josef Mietschnig, the head of the ALPINE Group said, "This project, designed as part of the training process for ALPINE apprentices, has sparked a lot of enthusiasm", adding that "apprentices learn quickly to take on responsibilities and can see how 'their project' starts to take shape, and makes them feel very proud of their accomplishment".

Apprentice training

Training young professionals is a longstanding tradition at ALPINE. Great importance is attached to professional training and a friendly work environment. An attractive raining program and supplementary training programs can lay the groundwork for a future interesting professional career at an innovative international firm.

This construction company expanded its apprenticeship program this year and will hire up to 100 apprentices. Those who obtain excellent grades at the test will be paid 1,000 Euros. Mietschnig mentioned that a few positions remained opened and encouraged young people interested in this program to sign up at the company's website at www.alpine.at.

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The Hadleigh Urban Waste Recycling Centre team won the prize 2009 Best Urban Recycling Centre in Suffolk County.

The Suffolk City Council applauds the winning teams

The Hadleigh Urban Waste Recycling Centre team won the prize 2009 Best Urban Recycling Centre in Suffolk County.

WRG, FCC's subsidiary in the United Kingdom and the Suffolk County local government met to celebrate the success achieved in the first eight months of the seven-year contract

The Hadleigh Urban Waste Recycling Centre team won the 2009 Best Urban Recycling Centre in Suffolk County. In addition, the Mildenhall Recycling Facility won the award for the Greatest Improvement in Customer Service, while the Chelmondston team took the prize Best Recycling Performance. All winners received a glass trophy and the Suffolk winning team was also given a supplementary prize of 1,000 pounds from the Centre Parcs holiday resort company.

The intention is to celebrate one edition of this award every year to reward the efforts of all personnel working for this concession contract, including operators and administrative staff.

During the award event, a 6,000 pounds cheque was given to the Suffolk's Saint John ambulance volunteers. The money came from raffles, donations from shops, and the proceeds from bazaar sales at the company's 18 facilities in Suffolk.

Terry Fisk, head of the Hadleigh Recycling team was very pleased with the award, saying that "the prize rewards the efforts and commitment everyone in Hadleigh". Terry was accompanied by his wife Mel. Both have been working at Hadleigh for eight years and this is not his first award, stating that "we won a similar one before joining WRG".

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Focsa heroes on the coveer page

Three FOCSA workers made the headlines after a dangerous rescue and have been hailed as heroes.

Three colleagues from Focsa, the FCC Environment subsidiary in the United Kingdom, made the first page after a dangerous rescue. All three were acclaimed as heroes after rescuing a driver whose car skidded on the ice.

The incident took place when Mrs. Lizzie Doman was driving to work and her car skidded on the ice on the Staverton Causeway in Wiltshire. The car spun around and careered into a flooded filed. Mrs. Doman jumped from the car while it was still moving, but it ran over her foot.

Three Focsa workers were on the same road at the same time: 41-year old Matthiudis Andrew, 40-year old Paul Whittaker, and 45-year old Jake Two Crows, all of whom are based at the Trowbridge machinery park, under contract from the Wiltshire County local government. Andrew Matthiudis was driving the waste collection truck and stopped immediately to see if they could help.

Andrew, who has been working at the company for more than 12 years, said "I could see some car lights going into the field but it was dark so we thought it was the farmer. We realised later what had actually happened and called an ambulance.

"My colleagues helped her get out of the field and got her into the lorry. We stayed there directing traffic until the emergency services arrived".

Mrs. Doman sent a thank-you note: "I would like to say a very big thank you to the refuse collectors who looked after me and kept me warm". The head supervisor at Focsa, Mark Rowe said that "they acted like heroes and this just goes to show how well we train our staff in case they have to act in an emergency".

In the photo: 41-year old Matthiudis Andrew, 40-year old Paul Whittaker; and 40-year old Jake Two Crows.

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Pedro José Cifuentes Rosso, head of the Parks and Gardens Department of the FCC Environment representative office in Murcia-Almería.

Prize for an FCC Environment employee

The Spanish Association of Parks and Public Gardens handed out out the annual awards at the twenty-seventh edition of the congress held in Alcorcón on 29 May.

The panel of judges, headed by Antonio López Lillo, honorary chairman of Europarc España, gave pedro José Cifuentes Rosso, head of FCC Environment's Murcia-Almería office, the diploma from the Parjap Magazine for the best technical article of the year entitled "Diagnosis of Green Zones for the Local 21 Agenda".

The Spanish Association of Parks and Public Gardens is the meeting point, for knowledge and the defence of the interests of the parks and gardens sector, committed to service and representation.

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FCC Construction obtains AENOR information security management system certification

FCC Construction has obtained Information Security Management certification under ISO 27001 awarded by Asociación Española de Normalización y Certificación (AENOR).

FCC chairman José Mayor Oreja, received the certificate from Manuel López Cachero, Chairman of AENOR, at an event held at the School of Civil Engineering in Madrid.

This certification confirms that FCC Construction has implemented a management system which reinforces and protects information security with a focus on continuous improvement. The leading advantages of ISO 27001 certification include: the implementation of proper controls to ensure confidentiality, integrity and availability of information; the ability of an organisation to be aware of its risks, identify and diminish threats, and comply with various regulations (protection of personal data, information society services, e-commerce, intellectual property, and information security).

In the International Organisation for Standardisation's latest report, Spain was ranked eighth by number of ISO 27001 certifications.

FCC Group companies as a whole have more than 170 AENOR certifications in the areas of Quality Management (ISO 9001), Environmental Management (ISO 14001), Occupational Health and Safety Management (OHSAS 18001), R&D&I Management (UNE 166002), and Energy Management (UNE 216301). Additionally, AENOR has certified 2,677 tonnes of CO2 for FCC Construction under Spain's National Allocation Plan.

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Queen Noor of Jordan presided the ceremony. On the left, Miguel Jurado, the General Deputy-Director of Aqualia's Development and International collected the price. On the left, Tamer Shafik, Deputy-Director of Sales at Orascom Construction Industries (OCI).

Aqualia wins award for financial closure of New Cairo sewage plant in Egypt

The award, from prestigious international journal Global Water Intelligence (GWI), is for the greatest contribution to the development of public-private partnerships anywhere in the world.

The project to finance, design, build and operate the New Cairo sewage plant in Cairo, Egypt, was awarded to the Orasqualia consortium, which is comprised 50% each by , FCC's specialised water management subsidiary, and Egyptian company Orascom Construction Industries (OCI). The 20-year concession contract represents a backlog of over 360 million euro.

The award, presented at a ceremony in Paris yesterday presided by Queen Noor of Jordan, was collected by Miguel Jurado, 's Subdirector General of Development and International, and Tamer Shafik, Commercial Subdirector at Orascom Construction Industries (OCI).

The award recognises not only the fact that this is the first PPP project awarded in Egypt, in any industry, but also the speed with which financial closure was attained, a record 7 months.

Four banks participated in the pool: National Société Générale Bank SAE (NSGB), Commercial International Bank (CIB) Egypt SAE, Arab African International Bank SAE and Ahli United Bank (Egypt) SAE. NSGB acted as agent bank and CIB as custodian. Baker & McKenzie is the project's legal advisor.

These awards, the most important in the water industry worldwide, had already recognised Aqualia's work in 2007 when it was named Worlds Best Water Management Company of the Year.

First contract in the North African country

The New Cairo plant, which will process sewage from over one million people, is the first contract in Egypt and is another step in the company's international expansion, which is focused particularly on North Africa, an area where it is already building two of the continent's largest desalination plants, in Mostaganem and Cap Djinet (both in Algeria). Aqualia carries out intensive commercial activities in this region in countries such as Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia, participating in several tender processes for new water infrastructures. In the Middle East, the company has opened a business development office in the United Arab Emirates; it has projects under way in the UAE, as well as Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Saudi Arabia, where there are prospects for major business opportunities in the coming years.

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Web de Flightcare

Flightcare expands its client portfolio

Flightcare, the Versia subsidiary engaging in airport handling activities, was awarded contracts by several airlines thereby increasing its business volume and consolidating its positioning.

The company entered into agreements with Lufhansa Group airlines for providing services at Barcelona to Lufhansa and Swiss Air, and in Rome to Lufhansa and Austrian Airlines. These services include passenger handling, ramp, cleaning, coordination, load control and lost and found. The new contracts are in addition to previous ones in Brussels and Valencia airports and with Swiss Air in Rome.

The Barcelona airport handling agreements with Wizzair and Czech Airlines have also been extended.

These contracts will generate more than 14 million Euros of Aqualia's sales.

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Objetivos cumplidos

- Puesta en marcha de los Premios de Prevención FCC.
- Definición del contenido en PRL de los Planes de Formación.
- Diseño de los procedimientos de gestión en Higiene y Ergonomía.

Hacemos los deberes

De la reunión con el equipo de PRL surgieron dos compromisos que ya han empezado a dar resultados:

- Colaboración entre la Dirección de PRL y la Dirección de Comunicación y RSC para la creación de una sección en el boletín de la empresa para la divulgación de hábitos de vida saludables y el bienestar de los trabajadores.

- Desarrollo de una campaña de comunicación del Grupo para la Prevención de Riesgos Laborales. En preparación.

Ver carrusel

La nueva organización de RR.HH. contempla la creación de la dirección corporativa de prevención, englobada en la Dirección de Servicios al Empleado de la Dirección General de RR.HH. de FCC.

FCC's Risk Prevention Team

La estrategia de prevención de la dirección de prevención de riesgos laborales está respaldada por la dirección general de RR.HH. y abarca a todas las actividades del Grupo FCC, tanto a nivel nacional como internacional.

El Grupo FCC dispone de una estrategia de prevención de riesgos laborales implantada en la organización a través de líneas de actuación concretas respaldadas por la Dirección General de Recursos Humanos, cuya prioridad es la mejora continua de la propia gestión en todas las sociedades del Grupo y para todos los empleados que trabajan en ellas.

Nuestro equipo

Francisco Martín Monteagudo, director general de RR.HH.
Emilio Hermida Alberti, director de RR.HH. Corporativo (Servicios al empleado).
Juan Carlos Sáez de Rus, director Corporativo de PRL.
Pedro Ledesma García, jefe de departamento. Dirección de PRL.
Rafael Echevarría de Rada, director Servicios Médicos de FCC.
Begoña Menager, directora de Prenvención. FCC Versia.
José Gascón, director de Prevención. FCC Construcción.
Guadalupe Bobadilla, directora de Prevención. FCC Ámbito.
Manuel Aragonés, responsable de Prevención. Empresas Participadas, FCC Construcción.
Carlos Alonso, director de Prevención. Cementos Portland Valderrivas.
Pascual Capmany, director de Prevención. Aqualia.
José María López,director de Prevención. FCC Medio Ambiente nacional.

Asistimos a una de sus reuniones de trabajo en las oficinas de la calle Federico Salmón, en Madrid, y aprovechamos la oportunidad para conocerles mejor. En el orden del día: la exposición de la **nueva organización de RR.HH.** y las líneas de actuación para el desarrollo de un **Plan de Comunicación de PRL.** Al finalizar la jornada nos permiten hacerles unas preguntas en relación a su actividad.

A primera hora acuden a la reunión Francisco Martín Monteagudo, Director General de RR.HH. de FCC y Emilio Hermida Alberti, Director RR.HH. Corporativo (Servicio a los empleados), que destacan el compromiso de implantar una cultura preventiva única de mejora continua, extensible a todos los países donde opera el Grupo.

Con respecto a la nueva organización

La nueva organización de RR.HH. puesta en marcha en septiembre de 2009 contempla la creación de la Dirección Corporativa de Prevención, englobada en la Dirección de Servicios al Empleado de la Dirección General de RR.HH.de FCC. En línea con la actual política de RR.HH., define una estructura que se asemeja a las directrices corporativas marcadas en el Grupo, depositando en las áreas de negocio la capacidad organizativa y de gestión desde un prisma global.

"Los cambios normativos condicionan el modelo de gestión"

Asimismo, con la publicación en España de una nueva normativa que desarrolla las directrices de la Estrategia Española de Seguridad y Salud en el Trabajo, así como la previsible aprobación en breve plazo de nuevos textos legislativos que vendrán a regular de manera más concreta los recursos materiales y humanos que se exigirán a los servicios de prevención propios, hace imprescindible reorganizar la actual estructura de gestión de prevención de las empresas de FCC.

Para ello, se está poniendo en marcha la transformación de la estructura centralizada del Servicio de Prevención Mancomunado, pasando a constituirse un nuevo servicio con esta misma figura en cada área del Grupo.

Hacia la internacionalización

Uno de los objetivos es incorporar, asumir e integrar la Prevención Internacional e implantar sistemas homogéneos en todos los países donde opera FCC. Desde la Dirección de PRL se trabaja en la línea de integración y homogenización de las políticas de prevención y los sistemas de gestión de PRL, y se están identificando buenas prácticas en materia de PRL para hacerlas extensibles a toda la organización.

El mejor y más exigente sistema de PRL

En relación a lo que conocemos de los departamentos de PRL de las empresas del sector, las personas del departamento de PRL del Grupo FCC consideran que tienen el mejor y más exigente sistema de PRL, reconocido por empresas competidoras en el sector, y además cumplen rigurosamente con su Plan de Prevención y los procedimientos de prevención.

Certificación OHSAS 18001

Otro aspecto diferenciador es el gran número de empresas certificadas en OHSAS 18001 que poseen las áreas de actividad y que a finales de 2009 abarcaban un total de 154 empresas de FCC, con 70.206 trabajadores, auditadas en OHSAS 18001 con resultado favorable.

La certificación OHSAS (Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series) certifica que la empresa que la ostenta dispone de un Sistema de Gestión de la **Seguridad y Salud** conforme a la norma reconocida internacionalmente **OHSAS 18001** y permite a la organización demostrar que cumple las especificaciones de dicha norma garantizando un plus adicional al mero cumplimiento legal.

Las personas responsables de los departamento de PRL de las diferentes áreas de negocio consideran que el mejor análisis de buenas prácticas es su manera de hacer las cosas, ver que funcionan y en general el punto más fuerte es la propia gestión de PRL que FCC tiene implantada, y que es sin duda, la más completa y exigente.

Los integrantes del departamento aseguran que uno de sus principales retos es impulsar y afianzar la cultura de seguridad única y de mejora continúa, para ello en el departamento de PRL se desarrollan multitud de campañas de sensibilización con el fin de fomentar tanto valores seguros en el trabajo como hábitos de vida saludables. El impulso a la utilización de nuevos sistemas informáticos de gestión mejorará también los rendimientos de los técnicos de PRL del Grupo.

Consideran fundamental la colaboración e integración de los distintos departamentos cuya actividad les afecta, como administración, producción, etc., así como con las diferentes áreas corporativas. Además, estiman necesario e imprescindible esa mayor colaboración entre los departamentos para cohesionar la actividad preventiva en la organización.

Asimismo, detectan la necesidad de concienciar a todo el colectivo laboral de los riesgos que existen en sus puestos de trabajo, y para ello es fundamental la formación, educación y concienciación en materia de Prevención de Riesgos Laborales.

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Our goal: "0 Accidents"

Strict monitoring and handling of serious or mortal accidents at the FCC Group has intensified. The occurrence of serious accidents has dropped a significant 13% in comparison with the previous year.

The accident rate at the company is constantly and intensively monitored to reduce these rates and to improve safety conditions. As part of its "0 Accidents" objectives,, the Group believes that investigating on-the-job accidents is essential to be able to eliminate and reduce occupational hazards.

The company has intensified the handling and monitoring of serious and mortal accidents. To this end, management meetings have been organised and "Learning from Accidents" leaflets and posters were prepared to ensure that these do not occur again at any of the worksites.

In 2010, the Prevention of Occupational Hazards Corporate Department is working on a Strategic Safety and Driving Education Strategic Plan that will contribute to fulfilling the organization's and the public administrations' goal of reducing the rate of traffic accidents.

The concern of public administrations in safety and health related aspects is shared by FCC, a perfect ally for transmitting this message to the community. This is underscored by the communications campaign launched by FCC on account of the A flu which spread throughout the world in 2009. FCC monitored the impact of the pandemic at weekly meetings, transmitting this information at all level of the corporate ladder, at worksites and even at the company's management, defining measures to mitigate the impact of this flu pandemic on the Group and, accordingly, on the community in general.

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Watch video

Portland Valderrivas and the Adecco Foundation organise volunteer event

Cementos Portland Valderrivas Group, together with the Adecco Foundation, organised a corporate volunteer event at CPV's factory in El Alto (Morata de Tajuña, Madrid) which involved planting trees in unused areas around the quarry.

The main participants in the activities were children and young people with mental disabilities from the Apascovi Foundation, who were accompanied by volunteers and monitors from the Foundation, and participated actively in all scheduled events.

Upon arrival at the factory, the group was welcomed with a breakfast organised by CPV volunteers. Next they attended an environmental workshop, and learned about the activities planned for the day, how quarries function, how to plant a tree and why it's important.

The group also visited zones that had already been reforested, and they planted and watered pine trees, and gave them names; this was followed by a picnic. The day came to an end with a ceremony at which participants received certificates for their environmental contribution.

Other attendees included Dieter Kiefer, Chairman of Cementos Portland Valderrivas, and other executives, employees and members of the Works Committee, who also participated in the tree planting activities, showing their support for an activity that is social, educational and recreational. This very enjoyable event was also an opportunity to learn new skills and abilities and transmit positive attitudes and values.

Dieter Kiefer commented: "This experience was a chance for me to confirm our employees' extraordinary social spirit and the fact that this type of activity brings us closer to the needs of local communities, especially to people who are at a disadvantage in terms of integration in society and the labour market."

The event is part of the social initiative implemented by Cementos Portland Valderrivas Group together with the Adecco Foundation to enhance social and labour integration of people with disabilities. The goal of the activity was twofold: to overcome social barriers and stereotypes about disabilities and to encourage respect for nature and the environment.

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FCC launches the Eco-Efficiency Awards

FCC launched the first edition of the "Eco-Efficiency Awards" aimed at rewarding initiatives or measures of FCC employees that contribute to sustainable development, the implementation of appropriate measures for making good use of natural resources, and new processes.

The awards are broken down into the following two categories:

- Efficient idea/project that contributes to improving the life of citizens.
- Efficient idea/project that improves the company's results.

This first edition was a resounding success, receiving more than one hundred projects and ideas, and rewarding the best initiatives or measures submitted by FCC employees that contribute to sustainable development, the implementation of appropriate measures for making good use of natural resources, and the implementation of new technologies.

The objective of this contest is to promote eco-efficiency, making it one of the company's trademarks. The quality of the initiatives that were submitted was excellent and we want to take the opportunity of thanking all of those who participated.

The Technical Committee, comprising specialists from various business areas, are currently involved in review these projects in order to select the best. After this prior analysis, the panel of judges will vote and will announce the names of the winners.

The prize to be awarded to each category is an all-expenses paid (flight, hotel, and a 1,000 euro travel bag) three-day trip for two to Vienna-Salzburg. The panel of judges will also award honorary mention diplomas.

We hope that this initiative IS a rewarding experience for all and that that it becomes a reference and a core value.

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Javier López-Galiacho, FCC Corporate Social Responsibility manager, receives the prize from Ángel García, the Chairman of Mensajeros por la Paz.

FCC volunteers receive 2010 Citizen Award

The FCC Volunteers program was awarded the "Ciudadanos" award for social work This corporate volunteer program, linked to the Esther Koplowitz foundation and the three retirement homes in Madrid, Valencia, and Barcelona, is one of the award-wining list that, since 2003, have received this prize such as the Save the Children foundation, Samur, Ifema, Manos Unidas, the Erasmus rogram, and the Hombre Project.

The key objective of the Citizens Award Association is to recognise people, institutions or projects that have an impact on a city or its citizens and whose values promote social and cultural identity, civic and democratic values, these such as gender equality, culture , work ethics, education, the rights of the elderly and minors, development, the alliance of civilisations, or the Peace Culture, etc.

The award was collected by Javier López-Galiacho, the FCC Manager of Corporate Responsibility, on behalf of all who have participated in the Volunteers program, and given by Ángel García, the Chairman of Messengers for Peace, at Madrid's Ateneo, and in the presence of the Ángel Gabilondo, minister of education, and Abel Caballero, the mayor of Vigo.

This recognition is to reward the work carried out since 2008 in a selfless manner by FCC workers and their families to improve the quality f life of people with disabilities or the elderly who live at the Esther Koplowitz Foundation retirement homes.

The panel of judges, which was chaired by Professor Manual Núñez Encabo, underlined the close connection between FCC's volunteer programme and the objectives of the Esther Koplowitz Foundation, in particular the Foundation's retirement homes in Madrid, Valencia and Barcelona that were built at the initiative of Ms Koplowitz. The award also recognises civil society actions to encourage solidarity with the most disadvantaged segments of society and to transmit positive values.

The FCC Volunteer programme, part of the group's corporate social responsibility (CSR) policy, was implemented two years ago in order to establish a solidarity network comprising persons who work at FCC, a Citizen Services company, as well as their relatives and friends, who contribute their experience, knowledge and time to improve living standards and welfare of the most disadvantaged segments of society.

In the first phase of this programme, its goals were aligned with those of the Esther Koplowitz Foundation, which has been working for the disadvantaged for many years at the instance of its founder. The programme is an opportunity to raise awareness among co-workers and encourage them to participate in corporate citizenship projects, supporting the company's mission of creating value for society and contributing to people's welfare.

A website for volunteers will be launched in the coming weeks to offer information on scheduled events and to recruit more employees for the programme, which is now being expanded to cover all of Spain.

The plan's objectives include providing as many FCC employees as possible with access to volunteer work in social action programmes; disseminating CSR and its meaning, implications and benefits throughout the company; and increasing employees' perception of belonging to a Citizen Services company, through cooperation between employees from different areas and different companies.

Esther Koplowitz Foundation

The FCC Volunteers programme operates at the "Nuestra Casa" retirement homes in Collado Villalba (Madrid) and Fort Pieç (Barcelona), and the home for people with physical and mental disabilities in Valencia.
The Esther Koplowitz Foundation delivered the "Nuestra Casa" home in Collado Villalba to the Madrid Regional Government in 2001. The facility houses 140 elderly people on a permanent basis and also offers 40 places in a day centre. Residents include patients with serious illnesses such as Alzheimer's disease and arteriosclerosis and others in good health.
The Esther Koplowitz Foundation financed the construction and outfitting of its second centre, in Fort Pieç (Barcelona). The home, which has 137 residential places and another 30 day-centre places, was transferred to the Barcelona City Government in February 2003, in a ceremony at which the city was represented by its mayor, Joan Clos.
The La Nostra Casa home for people with physical and mental disabilities, located in Valencia, was transferred by the Foundation to Valencia City Government in 2004. It has 60 residential places and 40 day-centre places. Like its sister institutions in Madrid and Barcelona, the construction of the Valencia home arose from Esther Koplowitz's constant concern for this disadvantaged group of people.

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MANAGEMENT

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The Employees' Portal is launched

FCC has launched the new Employees' Portal, a corporate information management tool which aims to improve internal communication and the flow of information between employees and the company. The Employees' Portal is a joint project of the Communications, Information Systems and Technologies, and Human Resources departments.

The new portal can be accessed through the FCC Group's intranet and, in the first phase, offers the possibility of checking payroll e-slips and to keep up to date on exclusive offers for company employees.

The payroll e-slip makes it possible to obtain since January 2010a payroll slip any time, have all the various ones that have been issued, and to print these slips only when it is necessary, thereby avoiding the use of paper

To access the portal, employees just have to enter their Tax ID Number (NIF), login, and the normal password. Since an adaptation period is required for any type of changes, both systems will be co-exist for some time.

In addition to these two products introduced in the Employees' Portal, other projects will be gradually incorporated in the platform so as to provide more services and contents, all of which will be announced promptly.

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The "Friday at the Retirement Home" 2009-2010 conference cycle takes a summer break

Coinciding with the summer holiday season, the FCC Volunteers Program project, "Friday at the Retirement Homes", will be suspended for couple of months.

Twenty-two speakers have stood at the podium to share their knowledge on topics of interest for the elderly living at the retirement homes. The objective was not merely to entertain them, but also to spark their curiosity, respond to their queries on any of the issues, and to improve their physical and psychological well-being.

The list below includes all those people who participated in 2010 in the last phase of the project, dedicating their time and efforts to this altruistic initiative from which they also benefitted thanks to the satisfaction shown by the residents:

- José Alcalá-Zamora, professor of modern history and member of the Academy of History, he spoke about poetry and presented his most recent book.
- Basilio Rodríguez Cañada, director of Editorial Sial, and founder and chairman of the Spanish Pen Club who made a presentation titled, "Communicate, convince and seduce. Body language".
- Dieter Kiefer, chairman and CEO of Cementos Portland Valderrivas, who spoke about "Switzerland, in the heart of Europe".
- Eduardo González Gómez, Managing Director of FCC Energía, whose presentation focused on "Energy and development, future challenges".
- Joaquín Poch, director of Hospital Clínico Universitario in Madrid, who made a presentation on "Hospitals in the Third World".
- Pedro Guillén , director of Clínica Cemtro of Madrid and professor of Sports Traumatology at the University of Murcia. The topic of his presentation was "The most recent progress in traumatology".
- Pedro López Menor, doctor at the Nuestra Casa de Collado Villalba Retirement Home(Madrid), who spoke on "Nutrition for the Elderly".
- Fernando Falcó y Fernández de Córdova, director of FCC, who shared with the residents his personal and professional experience in his speech "My relationship with motor racing throughout my life".
- Dolores Álvarez, director of the Spanish news agency EFE, whose topic was "The new communication challenges"
- Nicolás Redondo Terreros, lawyer and FCC board member, a regular at the Onda Cero radio talk show, and former secretary general of the Socialist Party of the Basque Country, who spoke on: "Spain, a traumatic experience".
- Concha Sierra, lawyer specialising on marriage law, and member of the Comisión General de Codificación y del Observatorio contra la Violencia de Género. The title of her speech was "Any time in the past was not necessarily better".
- Débora Vilaboa, dentist who reflected on the topic: "We take care of our mouth or it will take care of us".

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MANAGEMENT

FCC receives an award for its environmental policy from Madrid Chamber of Commerce

The president of the Community of Madrid, Esperanza Aguirre, handed out the 2009 Environment Awards on the 31st last at the Real Casa de Correos. The Environment Awards are given each year by the regional government, the Madrid Chamber of Commerce and Industry and CEIM (the Business Confederation of Madrid). This year FCC, competing in the "Big Business" category, was amongst those rewarded for environmental engagement. The group Corporate Responsibility Manager, Javier Lopez-Galiacho , collected the prize.

This award recognises FCC as the parent company of one of Spain's major construction and services Group, the leader in the national urban sanitation industry with a growing presence in this field in several international markets.

The panel underlined FCC's commitment to technology and energy for greater efficiency and responsible growth, FCC's compliance with international environmental standards and the 2009-2010 FCC Corporate Responsibility Master Plan, which calls for the introduction of a group-wide energy management system, good environmental practices at workplaces and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency measures, less-polluting fuels and renewable energy sources.

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MANAGEMENT

See report

FCC's 2009 Corporate Social Responsibility Report was granted an A+ rating by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

FCC's Corporate Social Responsibility Report was granted an A+ rating by the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the highest rating awarded by this entity to reports of this nature. The Group received this rating in 2009 for the fourth consecutive year.

GRI defines the requisites for reporting the corporate financial, environmental, and social performance in order to make this information comparable over time and in relation to other entities, providing stakeholders knowledge for assessing a company's non-financial performance. To ensure the highest level of technical quality, credibility, and relevance, Global Reporting Initiative standards are defined in a consensus process that includes participants from the international corporate world, civil society, labour organizations, CSR observatories, and the mass media.

The 2009 report revolves around FCC as a citizens service company and reflects the Company's commitment to sustainability and the initiatives undertaken in areas such as value accretion, corporate governance, and integrity, human resources, safety and health issues, the environment, and corporate citizenship.

Great efforts are made every year to improve the quality and increase the scope of the report, adapting its contents to stakeholders' requirements, even including indicators which do not always show a favourable view of the company such as fines, personnel turnover, decreased investment, etc.

The 2009 report highlights performance indicators such as the percentage of local purchases and hiring that contribute to the development of the community and which were 65% and 60% higher, respectively; more than 23 million Euros invested in R+D+i; the positive results of client satisfaction surveys; rated from Good to Excellent; the drop of on-the-job accidents in Services, Cement, or Construction in Spain; the more than 92,000 people employed by FCC; over 600,000 hours of training; the fact that 72% of the Group's activities have been awarded environmental certifications and 83% quality certifications; the reduction in waste generation and energy consumption; the more than 1.5 million tons of CO_2 emissions that were prevented; as well as the more than 7 million Euros earmarked for social issues.

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Baldomero Falcones, FCC Chairman and CEO, with Beatriz Corredor, Minister of Housing.

FCC sponsors Solar Decathlon Europe

Baldomero Falcones, Chairman and CEO of FCC, and Beatriz Corredor, Spain's Minister for Housing, signed an agreement yesterday under which the company joins the Solar Decathlon Europe competition as a sponsor. Under the agreement, FCC will be an official sponsor of the Solar Decathlon.

Solar Decathlon Europe is a competition between university teams that is organised by Spain's Ministry for Housing in cooperation with Madrid Polytechnic University and with the support of the US Department of Energy.

Participating teams must design and build a house that is energy self-sufficient, uses only solar energy and incorporates technologies that maximise energy efficiency. The final phase of the competition took place in Madrid, alongside the Manzanares River, between the Puente del Rey and Puente de Segovia bridges, from 17 to 27 June.

Lumenhaus, designed by the team from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, was the winner, considered the most efficient project in the Solar Decathlon Europe competition.

The donations made to Solar Decathlon by public and private entities are managed by a consortium which also certifies, that expenses and investments are aligned to the defined objectives and plans. Beatriz Corredor, the Minister of Housing, chairs the consortium which also includes two vice-chairmanships occupied by the dean of Madrid′s Universidad Politécnica, Javier Uceda, and the city′s mayor, Alberto Ruiz Gallardón. It also includes a representative from the Ministry of Economy and Treasury and another one from the Ministry o Housing.

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From left to right, the job supervisor Pfurner and seven of the interns working at the project followed by Wibmer, the supervisor's aide, and Heregger, head of the project, in front of the SOS Children's Village house currently under construction.

26 new homes to be built as part of the family village

ALPINE apprentices build a home for the Children's Village in East Tyrol

The Nussdorf-Debant SOS Children's Village in East Tyrol, the second oldest village in the world run by this organization, is currently being refurbished by Alpine interns.

Twenty-six new units to form part of a family village will be built and ALPINE is building the structure of one of the houses by fifteen interns taking turns at the site, under expert professional supervision. Josef Mietschnig, the head of the ALPINE Group said, "This project, designed as part of the training process for ALPINE apprentices, has sparked a lot of enthusiasm", adding that "apprentices learn quickly to take on responsibilities and can see how 'their project' starts to take shape, and makes them feel very proud of their accomplishment".

Apprentice training

Training young professionals is a longstanding tradition at ALPINE. Great importance is attached to professional training and a friendly work environment. An attractive raining program and supplementary training programs can lay the groundwork for a future interesting professional career at an innovative international firm.
This construction company expanded its apprenticeship program this year and will hire up to 100 apprentices. Those who obtain excellent grades at the test will be paid 1,000 Euros. Mietschnig mentioned that a few positions remained opened and encouraged young people interested in this program to sign up at the company's website at www.alpine.at.

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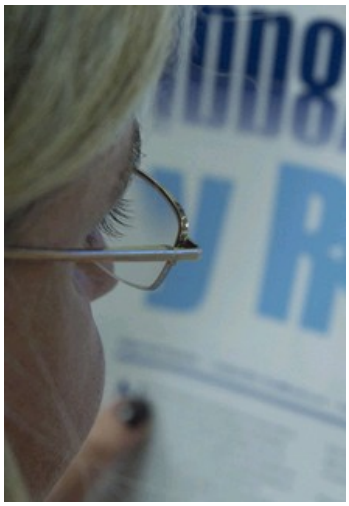
WELL-BEING



Ocular fatigue, the first sign of visual tiredness

Ocular fatigue is a reversible functional disorder produced by excessive work of the extra-ocular and/eyelid muscles that control the movements of the eyes.

People who have a tendency to suffer from this disorder are those who have to constantly fix their sight on an object, work in places with insufficient light, or in a polluted or smoke-filled environment.

Symptoms

We should learn what causes this disorder, recognise it, and prevent it. If you feel tired, feel discomfort in your eyes, have red or dry eyes, find it difficult to read, have teary eyes, blink very often, have eye or eye lid muscle spasms, these are signs that your vision is starting to suffer and that you should take steps to remedy this discomfort.

Causes

There is not just one cause for ocular fatigue; the most common ones are:
Vision adaptation. Normally, ocular fatigue occurs when making efforts to look at something at a close distance. The normal eye without any grading defects, when resting focuses on a distant sight. When the eye focuses on a nearby object, the muscle inside the eye (the ciliary muscle) has to work very actively. The effort of looking up close during a long time can cause ocular fatigue.

Dry eyes. When we concentrate on a visual task (reading, working on the computer, etc.) something occurs that we generally do not notice but which has a significant impact on eye dynamics: we blink less and this produces dry eye symptoms.

Eye exercises

We can strengthen the muscles around the eyes to counter the effects of tiredness by performing simple eye exercises that help prevent and delays ocular fatigue.

Some of the recommended eye exercises are as follow:

- While sitting down, turn your eyes clockwise and then counter-clockwise, repeating four times, and blinking between each set.
- Take a pencil and stretch your arm at the level of your eyes. Move the pencil slowly towards the nose until you cannot see it clear any longer. Repeat five times.
- Sit in front of a wall and make believe that you are writing with your eyes without moving your head. The bigger the letters that your write, the better.
- Sit about 15 centimetres from a glass window. Fix your eyes for 30 minutes on a faraway object, trying to keep your eyes focused while you blink a few times. Focus on another object and repeat the exercise.
- Fix your sight on a specific point, blink, repeat and blink again. Remember that every time that you blink you are lubricating your eyes.
- Concentrate your sight towards the point of your nose without blinking. Continue doing this as long as you can and then relax. Repeat it a few times then close your eyes and rest.
- Without blinking, concentrate your eyes on the area between your eyebrows. Close your eyes again and rest. At first, when you concentrate on an area that you cannot see, you will feel that this is difficult or uncomfortable, but it will get easier the more you practice
- Without moving your head, focus both eyes on your left shoulder as long as possible. Close your eyes and then relax. Repeat the exercise now looking at your right shoulder.

Do you know how often a human eye blinks per minute?
When having a conversation, you blink an average of 22 times per minute. When somebody reads, blinking is every 12 to 15 times per minute. However, when you sit in front of a computer, your eyes
BLINK LESS THAN 5 TIMES PER MINUTE!!!

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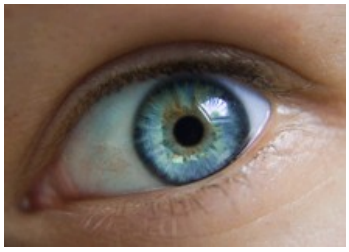

Recommendations of the FCC medical services

Following the recommendations of FCC medical professionals, it is essential to visit an ophthalmologist once a year and follow his advice.

- ***Don't work more than 50 minutes straight in front of a computer.***
- ***Take a 5 to 10 minute break, stand up and look far and then up close repeating this successively.***
- ***Look far away and move your eye muscles.***
- ***Control room temperature to avoid increasing eye dryness.***
- ***Go to the ophthalmologist to check if you need to correct your vision for medium distances and for controls and studies to prevent the occurrence of dry eyes.***
- ***Have an annual physical check-up at the FCC medical services which includes an eye exam.***

Remember that you should visit an eye doctor at least once a year.

Did you know that a blueberry is a natural medicine for your sight?

Blueberries are a rich source of anthocyanin flavonoids, pigments that have antioxidant properties that help to repair the nerve cells in the retina.

During Second World War, English air force pilots casually discovered that their night vision improved if they ate blueberry marmalade often. They also discovered that their eyesight adapted more easily when they went from bright to darker zones.

Several studies were conducted later that confirmed the importance of this fruit for protecting the eyesight and preventing ocular diseases.

Blueberries are rich in anthocyanin flavonoids, pigments that are present in certain red and blue-purple fruits, such as blueberries, strawberries, cherries, and plums.

The function of these flavonoids is particularly focused on repairing nerve cells in the retina, increasing the flow of blood, thereby increasing the amount of nutrients in the eye, protecting collagen, and increasing the rate of rhodopsin, a protein present in the rods of the retina that capture light.

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Asociación Naturalista Naumanni carries out conservation and environmental education projects at El Porcal

See slide-show

How do we restore a gravel exploitation area?

El Porcal, a siliceous gravel exploitation area is situated 40 kilometres from Madrid in the middle of the Regional South East Park of Madrid, in the Rivas Vaciamadrid district. The exploitation has been reconverted into a natural ecosystem declared a protected space in 1994 and part of the sediment basin of the Jarama and Manzanares Rivers.

The El Porcal farm, managed by ARIPRESA, a Cementos Portland Valderrivas subsidiary, awarded the ISO 14001 environmental certificate in 1999, won the first prize in 2001 for the best restoration of a mining exploitation in the Madrid Autonomous Community thanks to the innovations, implementation, and development of a restoration plan involving four lakes formed by the excavation of aggregates in the farm. Last year, El Porcal also won the national ANEFA award given by the National Association of Aggregate Manufacturers to reward the good environmental practice of large companies.

Owned by the company, El Porcal spans over a 459-hectare area. I was formerly a siliceous aggregate exploitation quarry which ceased operations at the end of 2005 although extraction and restoration activities have continued to this day in areas where exploitation is currently permitted.

El Porcal, a model of environmental restoration

During our visit to the plant, we listened to the explanations given by Alfredo Contonente Delgado, head of Aripresa and the Cementos Portland Valderrivas Group regional representative for the North Zone, and by José Ignacio Elorrieta, Corporate Director for the Environment, who described the restoration process at El Porcal. We were also accompanied by Covadonga Gonzalez, a R+D+i technician and by Elena Obis an Environment technician, both of whom work at the Cementos Portland Valderrivas Group's Corporate Department for the Environment.

Two million tons of aggregates of different granulometric composition were previously obtained which were used in building and infrastructures as well as in the cement, glass, paint, and other types of industries. Washing of these aggregates left a sandy residue which was gradually deposited in the lakes until forming beaches which have been filled with vegetation and small invertebrates which are eaten by larger animal species.

Mining law requires that exploitation projects also contemplate a restoration plan to return the natural habitat to an environmental state better than the one existing prior to the start of exploitation. Since the time that operations started in El Porcal in 1974 nearly all work, exploitation and restoration, have been performed simultaneously, creating a natural habitat of enormous ecological value. At present, 325 hectares have been restored, with 225 of this space taken up by lakes.

A sustainable development plan to protect the ecosystem

For the conservation of the wetland ecosystem at El Porcal, ARIPRESA designed a general sustainable development and restoration plan. Company experts performed a detailed study of the site where the activity is carried out so as to be able to respect the flora and fauna and all surrounding areas.

Many types of trees, shrubs, and plants co-exist at the farm. Water plays a major role in this landscape of great ecological value. The eight lakes are surrounded by rich vegetation and wetlands, one of the richest and most productive ecosystems in the world thanks to its great biological diversity: reeds, reedbeds, and other plants grow naturally around the borders of the lakes and form a resting place for the thousands of birds.

The restoration plan carried out at the El Porcal mining exploitation aims to meet the following objectives:

- Reduce the visual impact of extraction activities to achieve an integrated landscape.
- Promote natural colonisation of autochthonous fauna and flora species.
- Protect the natural surrounding habitat.
- Maintain equilibrium between anthropic activities and the environment.

KNOWLEDGE

Every year, ARIPRESA invests funds for the conservation and landscape restoration of

its farm. The impressive beauty of these lakes enriches the natural landscapes of the Madrid Autonomous Community. These artificial lakes were created at the same time as aggregate extraction activities were carried out.

The lakes are prepared so that they can be colonised in a natural way, conducting studies on how to take advantage of the water used at the quarry, creating beaches, preparing the banks, installing warrens, and repopulating the area with autochthonous trees from ARIPRESA's plant nursery. All of these measures are aimed at creating stable and varied ecosystems to protect and increases biodiversity.

The conservation projects at El Porcal benefit from the technical support of Asociación Naturalista Naumanni, which has been managing a model project since 2005 to improve restoration plans in one of the landmarks of the Regional Park, a plan which makes it possible to optimise ecological criteria at these lands used for aggregate extraction.

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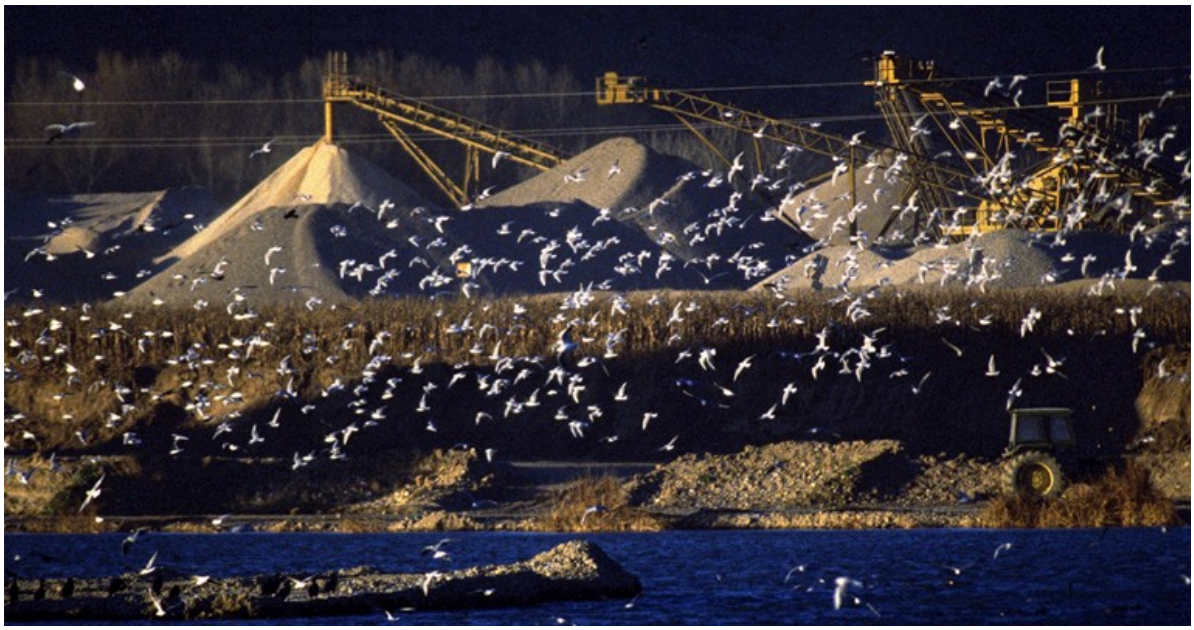
KNOW-HOW



El Porcal: a sanctuary for migratory birds

El Porcal is one of the most important wetlands in the region. A total of 184 species of vertebrates have been identified There are 17 species of mammals, especially badgers; 147 bird species, including 17 which are classified as endangered species; 15 species of amphibians and reptiles; six species of fish, and Eurasian Marsh-Harriers (Circus aeruginosus).

El Porcal plays an important role as a bird sanctuary within the migratory routes, ensuring refuge and food or birds. During the winter months, more than 150,000 birds and more than 4,000 ducks from North Europe fly south to hibernate. Every years, birds which have been fitted with rings, have been identified, arriving from Poland, Russia, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland, and many other countries. More than 400 double-crested cormorants also spend the winter at this site.

The immense "Las Garzas" reed-bed is on top of the former sludge deposit and is now home to a large colony for mating purple herons, including 25 couples. This bird has been declared an endangered species in the Madrid Autonomous Community. The sludge pond is also the home of storks and grey herons who feed on the tiny insects that can be found there.

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GUEST COLUMN

In the photograph: Isabel Perez Espinosa, Oviedo's city councillor for Water and the Environment and Alonso Tomás, Aqualia's manager in Oviedo during the presentation of the project.

Remote management solutions for large water consumers, a sustainable project

Transmission equipment installed in the metre sends information via GSM to the office which is subsequently analysed by specially-designed data treatment software.

The Oviedo City Council and Aqualia are working jointly to offer the necessary technical responses and technological innovations to improve service and contribute to sustainable development for the benefit of the city's residents. A pioneer remote-management pilot project run by Oviedo's Municipal Water Department has been introduced for monitoring and controlling large water metres at the sites of major water consumers.

The objective of the system is to provide the necessary basic information automatically and from a remote location to acquire knowledge and contribute value to the water management in relation to major consumers, in terms of operations as well as sales management and billing. It contributes to improving customer services and optimising management and maintenance of the metres and enabling a rapid response in the event of incidences. It provides data such as the user's consumption profile and the functional specifications of the metres. It also makes it possible to monitor total consumption; analyse metre dynamics, the trend in relation to demand, alarms, etc.

The system comprises the following basic elements: pulse emitters, data transmission equipment and information management software at the office. The transmission equipment is totally autonomous and runs on batteries. It is easy to install and configure, can be updated remotely, and forwards information directly via GSM by sending SMSs.

This trailblazing equipment is totally open and independent from the metre brand and it is necessary for the equipment to have an information pulse-enabled input metre to connect to an external, compact, and easy to install external assembly module.

Metre fitted with a pulse emitter, external analyser module, and SMS data transmitter.

Equipment management and control requires the installation of an advanced software program with basic functions for monitoring, gathering data and recording events automatically, analysing historical information, and exporting it for its subsequent analysis.

In terms of water flow, the system provides information on daily consumption, the records of hourly flows and also memorises the consumption profile of the previous two months. It also sends out an alarm whenever the maximum flow reaches the threshold, any water leaks, if the metre stops functioning, or if fraud is detected.

This innovative pilot project makes it possible to analyse the efficiency of metre equipment at major customers, identifies the time spans (volume and time), shows actual consumption by flow segments and the distribution of the flow over time to identify the consumption trend, thereby making it possible to have information on actual demand and on the consumption habits of large consumers, and also to confirm if the size of the metre is appropriate.

Measurement point, segment metre, and distribution of water flow

The equipment also provides historical information of all alarms, daily and monthly, sent out by the equipment, allowing direct access for viewing and managing the details of the event. The definition of the alarm parameters and its configuration is performed from a remote distance.

Whenever an alarm is generated, the equipment "wakes up" automatically and sends a report on the event to the management site (office) or to a specific cell phone in order to expedite the resolution of the incidence.

It also provides information on the customer and on the metre equipment, managing all data, viewing the actual metre reading and daily consumption, providing detailed information on the consumption profile at different time spans such as annually, monthly, and daily.

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GUEST COLUMN

The project's objectives and advantages

The objective of the system is to provide necessary information automatically and on a remote basis in order to have knowledge and to contribute value to the management of major consumers, improving customer service, optimising management and maintenance of the metres, and responding rapidly in the event of incidences.

Objectives:

- Improve the service provided to major consumers.
- Optimise their metres.
- Learn about their consumption habits.
- Respond rapidly in the event of incidences.

Advantages:

- Facilitates basic information automatically and remotely on a daily basis.
- Makes it possible have knowledge on consumption habits.
- Validates the selection of the optimal metre.
- Reports incidences thereby making it possible to respond more quickly.

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Workers at the steel framework park

We take a tour of the Mar de Aneto floating dock in Algeciras, Cadiz

We arrive at 9:30 a.m. at the FCC facilities where work is carried out to build the coffers for the new pier attached to the Ingeniero Castor jetty at the harbour in Algeciras, Cadiz.

Cadiz, 22 March 2010.
Algeciras Harbour.
Mar de Aneto floating dock
9:30 a.m.: 25ºC. Westerly wind

We arrive at the dock when the work team was anchoring "Irene" – the 9th of the 14 coffers being built by FCC at the Algeciras Harbour and which will used to enlarge the pier attached to the Ingeniero Castor jetty –at its definitive location.

Coffer number 10, the "Saray Martínez", which will be the next one to be transferred, is tied to the dock.

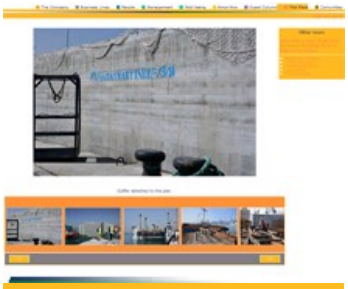
Members of the work team "baptise" the coffers that they are building at the Mar de Aneto floating dock; usually female names, always in honour of their mothers, wives, or sisters.

During the morning, we witness the launching manoeuvres of "Lorena", coffer number 11. The operation took about three hours. Workers from the Central Machinery Department and from the Civil Works office in western Andalucía skilfully coordinated the entire operation. The dock supervisor was giving specific instructions to the dock operator at the control room and to the tow boat that will be dragging the coffer to the point where it will be sunk into the sea to form the future dock.

The work team must work with great precision and must be perfectly coordinated to ensure the success of this operation which means that only work teams who have broad experience are able to perform these manoeuvres.

This is a highly complex operation and depends, to a large extent, on the conditions of the sea. Bad weather is the worst enemy since it can complicate and delay work. A large dose of patience is also required since offshore operations are very slow and depend on tow boats to move the coffers.

Work is non-stop 24 hours a day at the Mar de Aneto floating dock. The coffer manufacturing process usually takes seven days and the coffers built are 46 metres long, 25 metres wide, and 29 metres tall..



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Algeciras Harbour

This is the busiest national harbour for merchandise traffic. It is situated in an exceptional geostrategic location, where the two main sea routes meet. Thanks to its privileged situation and its large network of connections with the world's main harbours, it is a global reference for commercial and passenger traffic.

The Algeciras Harbour has been thoroughly revamped in recent times to enlarge its infrastructures and installations as well its capacity to be able to handle the constantly increasing traffic around its waters.

General view of the steel framework park

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Coffer ready for launching

The cofferdam

The FCC-owned Mar de Aneto floating dock is currently at the Algeciras harbour in the province of Cadiz, manufacturing the coffers that will be used to build the pier attached to the Ingeniero Castor jetty.

The cofferdam, used in the construction of docks, piers and jetties, was built in 2002 and is 46.8 metres long and has a breadth of 32 metres.

Since floating docks are not self-propelled, tow boats are used to transfer them from one place to another. Once it arrives at the work site, it must remain in sheltered waters.

The dock is made up of a pontoon on which the coffer construction work is carried out. It is the main component that allows the dock to float, and is supported by four towers one at each corner which enable the block to function as a single body.

Besides the tanks, there is a dry area inside the towers with stairs leading to the deck. A latticework vertical structure sits on top of each of the towers with large and rigid metal structure used to hang the formwork and gliding elements.

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Building a coffer

The coffer construction begins by assembling the steel framework, which will serve as the skeleton of the coffer, on top of a pontoon. Once the structure has been assembled, it is transferred to the dock's pontoon.

Before starting to manufacture a coffer, the deck is cleaned and prepared so that the coffer is easy to remove later. The steel formwork is then placed on top of the floor.

Concrete is then pumped on the base. Once this operation has been completed, the umbrella from which the formwork is suspended is lowered and placed on top of the base. After removing the formwork, the dock and pontoon compartments are steadied and when concrete has been poured, it is removed from the coffer which once it has dried, is ballasted in order to begin the launch process.

Workers at the steel framework park

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Manufactured coffers for pier construction.

Launching

Launching is the operation by which the coffer is separated from the floating dock by a tugboat. To transfer the floating coffer offshore, it is necessary to ballast the dock to sink it slowly until the coffer is separated from the dock thanks to the Archimedes Principle, letting it float separately from the dock. At this point, the coffer is transferred to its location with the help of a tugboat.

Transferring

Harbour coffers are large structures that can float once completed thanks to their airweight section, which makes it possible to tug them to their definitive location where the coffer is ballasted by filling it with granular material.

Transferring the coffer to its definitive location.

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See slide-show

Oviedo has been awarded the Platinum Broom for the cleanest city in Spain on more than one occasion. In the photograph, Oviedo's mayor, Gabino de Lorenzo.

Oviedo, a reference worldwide

Oviedo is a global reference, one of the most appreciated cities in Europe i cultural circuits. It is the capital of the Principality of Asturias; in its origins, it was a European capital of culture, and with the motto, Oviedo, Road to Europe" aims to become the European Capital of Culture in 2016.

The city is protected by Monte Naranco and the Aramo mountain range. It is city with a remarkable international projection thanks to the Prince of Asturias prizes awarded every year at Campoamor Theatre.

Oviedo amasses the largest and most representatives samples of pre-Romanesque architecture, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in recognition of its artistic value. Some of the best examples of this style are the Santa María del Naranco and San Miguel de Lillo churches, the Sacred Chamber of the Cathedral, the San Julián de Prados temple, the rural Santa María de Bendones church, and the Foncalada fountain.

A short journey through its history shows that Oviedo has always been a city that has wanted to grow. We go back to 761 when the monks Maximum and Formestano founded Oviedo. The city started to grow and evolve as of that date. Short reigns of the Asturian monarchy followed one after another until Alfonso II the Chaste was crowned king, governing for more than 50 years. The tomb of the apostle Saint James was discovered during his reign; an event that would leave a huge footprint in the city's history. The Road to Santiago was built at that time and a temple dedicated to The Saviour was built. The monarchs who reigned afterwards up until Alfonso III the Great held their court in Oviedo, contributing to the city's growth. The court was transferred to León, which was considered a more strategic location, after the death of Alfonso III.

The medieval city continued to grow as the centuries passed. The Los Pilares aqueduct was built in the 16th century to bring water the city; the university was founded in the following century, and urban, industrial, and commercial growth was quite important by the 19th century. Oviedo does not forget its past, it lives the present, and is very optimistic.

A harmonious city

It is harmonious capital, pleasant, elegant, rich in culture, and clean. A constantly evolving city; a city with a clear vocation for administrative and university services. Oviedo is also the city of a major prize, the Príncipe de Asturias award. One of the most important cultural events of the year, it contributes to fostering scientific, cultural, and humanistic values that are shared universally, making the city a global cultural reference.

Gabino de San Lorenzo, the city's mayor, is very proud of the city, telling us that "being from Oviedo is a great source of pride; it is immensely gratifying to live in a city which, without renouncing its past, lives in harmony with the present and looks to the future with optimism. Oviedo is the home of several events and we, the people from Oviedo, are warm hosts because it is a pleasure for this city to open its doors to all who visit, from the famous representatives of science, culture, or sports, to the anonymous tourists who we try to show the best of our city so that they long to return again. As the mayor, I feel tremendously satisfied that Oviedo is one of the most appreciated cities in European cultural circuits".

To many people, Oviedo is reminiscent of royalty, Spain, blue, La Regenta, the Prince of Asturias, Fernando Alonso, pleasant, stately, mountains, or the local specialties, fabada and bollu preñaus; defining Oviedo using just one word is a difficult task. We would opt for harmony and, as expressed by its mayor, "defining Oviedo is rather difficult for me but I think harmonious is very close to what we actually are. It is a harmonious city, at a human scale, designed to be enjoyed, without great stridency, a city to be savoured in its multiple offerings. Pleasant for strolling, comfortable, elegant, cultured, clean, and quiet".

Woody Allen, winner of the Príncipe de Asturias art award in 2002, has a sculpture in his honour in the city in appreciation for his warm praise "Delicious, exotic, beautiful, full of pedestrian walks, Oviedo is like a fairy tale". On one occasion, he said that "eating in Oviedo is simple marvellous ". Norman Foster has defined it as "pleasant, clean, and

civilised, with very good urban quality ". When we asked the city's mayor: what is the most extraordinary thing than anybody has ever said about the city? Gabino de Lorenzo answered that "if I had to count all the praises of this city over the course of time, I would need a few very large volumes. Major figures from all fields have dedicated very beautiful words to the city of Oviedo".

Cultural tradition

He mentioned a recent example which he said defined the city very precisely. The Italian writer Claudio Magris, winner of the Príncipe de Asturias literature award, supports the candidacy of Oviedo as the European Capital of Culture in 2016, describing the city in the following terms: "Oviedo is a city with an ancient, millennial cultural tradition and, most importantly a profound tradition of liberty. A friendly, charming concentration of variety, pluralism that represents the salt of Europe. I believe that Oviedo offers everything and meets all the requisites for representing the tradition, the humanitas, and the lifestyle which comes to the minds of all of us when we hear the word Europe. This is precisely the idea of culture and this is why Oviedo deserves to become the capital of Europe".

Oviedo is a global reference for music and one of the cities that makes the largest investments in music per inhabitant. It has an opera, lyrical, zarzuela, season, piano seminars, symphonies, bagpipe bands, as well as the Philharmonic Society, the Symphonic Orchestra of Oviedo and the symphonic orchestra of the Principality of Asturias. The Oviedo City Council's efforts in the defence of music are very appreciated by its citizens. The mayor said that "Music is, undoubtedly, one of the pillars of our cultural activity, our strong point. We have one of the oldest opera seasons in Spain, a zarzuela season of great quality, lyrical awards that are increasing in importance, and concert cycles that attract the most important musicians and orchestra directors of our time". Oviedo is a cultural and musical hub. "This city is in love with the fine arts – the mayor stated – and in this respect, the work that we are doing fostering education for the new generation of the city's citizens is extremely important". Through its Department of Education, the City Council provides many activities each year for schools so that children can become involved in the city's cultural activities: they attend concerts, go to the opera, the theatre, develop activities that bring them close to nature".

The city has more than 1 million square metres of parks and gardens. The San Francisco Field is in the city's downtown district; the Winter Park is in the South; the West Park, the Purificación Tomás Park, also called Monte Alto, west of Monte Naranco; El Campillín, one of the city's most appreciated green space; the Oviedo Green path, and the La Zoreda Forest, one of the best preserved spaces in the central part of Asturias

Oviedo has a charming historic district where you can wander through its medieval streets and discover unexpected spots full of local flavour. Walking through the historic district means stopping and drinking some cider, buying a few gifts, trying the bollus preñaus (stuffed pastries), or some other local speciality. We must also try to visit classic spots such as the El Fontán square to have a snack and enjoy its charms.

The most popular dish in Oviedo are the fabes (large white beans) but you can also enjoy the most exquisite fish and seafood that is auctioned in the central fish market, and also a large variety of fruits and vegetables. You cannot visit Oviedo without trying the city's typical sweets, the carbayones, made with puff pastry, and also the Moscovites chocolates at Rialto, a real culinary emporium and the ideal place to try the quality of the products locally produced in the Principality.

One of the most famous holidays is the traditional night of Saint John with the large bonfire, a typical event enjoyed by the city's residents around a large bonfire at different points throughout the city; and St. Mathew, celebrated in September and declared an event of National Touristic Interest.

The cleanest city in Spain

Oviedo has won the Platinum Star for the cleanest city in Spain on several occasions, winning it again this year thanks to its selective waste collection service, the technological innovations, and the cleaning services provided by FCC. The mayor of the city collected the prizes last 13 June, given by Julian Uriarte, the chairman of Ategrus, the association that rewards urban cleanliness. This is the ninth distinction that the city has won since 1994.

Gabino Lorenzo believes that "a city council must focus on serving its citizens, firstly on an overall basis and then in matters concerning cleanliness and safety, and also in a personalised manner such as by offering comfortable and safe transport to people with disabilities. Citizen services mean focusing on the general and then on the specific, to the extent of our possibilities, since resources are limited and management must be highly efficient".

The mayor acknowledges that Oviedo "has sound pillars for facing the future. Times are not the best, but I believe the capital of the principality will succeed in meeting this current crises", adding that he would like for Oviedo to be in the future the same great city that it is now.

Gabino de Lorenzo wants that Oviedo uses "clean, renewable and non-pollutant energies in the future, the energies that must be given priority" Protecting the environment and improving the quality of life of citizens, organising a transport system that is not noisy and does not pollute is essential. "Oviedo – as its mayor said- has been a pioneer in many things, from the selective collection of waste at households, to closing many streets to traffic and opening them up for pedestrians, burying traffic underground so as to have new open spaces for the enjoyment of the city's residents, and we plan to continue along these lines to protect the environment and improve the quality of life of citizens".

A fortunate city

There is a current project for burying traffic in the city's midtown district, building a large underground parking space. This will contribute to the drastic reduction of traffic in the city's central area. "I believe that this will significantly improve mobility in a city where great efforts have been made to make car and pedestrian traffic compatible" –Gabino de Lorenzo said".

Gabino de Lorenzo is a mayor with his eyes focused on the future and believes that "electric cars are a good transport alternative and, yes; this could be the future trend".

"We are already making plans with this in mind. In fact, one of the projects that we have included in our bid to become the European Capital of Culture, is a major program to transform Oviedo into a city of sustainable mobility".

"Oviedo is a fortunate city because the large investments in equipment have already been made and the best investment that city councils can make is to try to maintain the level of citizen services. The economic situation and the lack of an appropriate municipal funding framework are hampering the capacity of all city councils. We have to handle many competencies that are not our responsibility. The situation is critical: unless there is a new municipal funding system, Spanish city councils are going to face a major crisis. Oviedo is fortunate since it has already made these large investments in equipment. This is why we aspire to continue to maintain the high quality of our services, with great austerity and efficient management".

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FCC's citizen services, the best rated by the Agenda Local 21 survey in Oviedo

Oviedo's residents give a positive rating to FCC's water supply, street cleaning, and selective solid urban waste collection services in the city.

The results of the Agenda Local 21 survey conducted by the Oviedo City Council highlighted the FCC-managed services as the best rated ones, specifically:

1. Water supply
2. Street cleaning
3. Quality of drinking water
4. Selective waste collection

Collection and cleaning

FCC Medio Ambiente has been managing street cleaning and solid urban waste collection services in Oviedo since 1968. The company has 40 solid waste collection trucks that provide daily services throughout the city's streets and collect more than 100,000 tons of waste each year.

The service, provided 365 days a year, is broken down into manual and mechanical cleaning of Oviedo's 1,400 streets: the first method is used to clean 350,000 m2 of sidewalks and the second one 650,000 m2.

Water

Aqualia, the FCC specialist in end-to-end water management has been engaging in this activity in Oviedo since 1996, providing services to a population of 225,969 people.

In 2009, Aqualia billed 16,598,378 m3. It performed 44,600 water tests, and more than 11,600 chloride control analyses. Since implementing this service, it has introduced many technological innovations, including GIS; a remote control system; radio-enabled meter readings; remote management of major consumers; intelligent electronic metres, and many other techniques. .

Car park and towing services

Estacionamientos y Servicios is the FCC Company specialising in the operations, control, and maintenance of ground, regulated parking spaces; the construction, operations and management of underground car parks; municipal towing and depot services; and the development and implementation of software for handling traffic fines. FCC started operations in Oviedo in June 1989, installing 50 parking metres in the streets and approximately 1,000 parking spaces in the blue district.

At present, there are 113 parking metres installed in the streets and 2,533 limited-time parking spaces, of which 164 have reduced rates. The tolling services include five cranes and one platform.

Through FCC Construcción, the company has executed several projects, such as the Parque Oeste urban development and sports facilities; the refurbishment of the veterinary faculty in the Cristo Campus (Phase III) in Oviedo, and the revamping of the former veterinary faculty for its use by the Legal-Social Sciences Department in Universidad de Oviedo.

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