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FCC bolsters its internationalization strategy, landing contracts worth more than 5 billion Euros in 2010

Students in the Czech Republic collect more than 2.5 million kilograms of paper

Skincare tips for the winter season

¿How do we desalinate sea water?

Construction, ethics, and climate change

Fighting forest fires

San Sebastian, a great example of a city

The women who collect solid waste in Madrid

FCC wins contracts abroad worth 5 billion Euros

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The President of the Generalitat inaugurates the Esther Koplowitz Centre

José Montilla, President of the Catalonia Regional Government, inaugurated the Esther Koplowitz Centre in Barcelona, which is devoted to biomedical research, in Barcelona today. The event was attended by Cristina Garmendia, Spain's Minister of Science and Innovation, and Jordi Hereu, Mayor of Barcelona.

This state-of-the art facility will enable over 400 researchers at Barcelona's Clinical Hospital, Barcelona University Medical School and the Barcelona Institute of Biomedical Research to develop their full scientific potential.

The 10,000 square meter Esther Koplowitz Centre will provide work space for accredited researchers who engage in investigating cancer, Alzheimer's disease, the metabolism, diabetes, and diseases of the digestive tract, among others. The Centre plans to arrange cooperation agreements with the world's leading research institutions, such as the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and Israeli universities.

The new centre is the outcome of combined efforts by Esther Koplowitz, the doctors at Barcelona Clinical Hospital and a number of public and private institutions, including the Catalonia Regional Government, the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, the Carlos III Health Institute and Barcelona University.

The Esther Koplowitz Foundation is funded exclusively with donations from its founder and chairwoman. This donation for biomedical research brings Esther Koplowitz's contribution to philanthropy (including amenities for the disadvantaged, as well as scientific research) to close to 100 million euro, placing her at the forefront of this area.

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Winners in the first edition of the Eco-Efficiency Awards

The first Eco-Efficiency Awards have been awarded. More than 100 projects participated in this first edition of the awards that acknowledge initiatives or measures carried out by FCC employees that contribute to sustainable development, the implementation of appropriate measures for the utilization of natural resources, and the launch of new technologies that make a positive contribution to the environment.

The panel of judges responsible for assessing the entries submitted in this first edition were: José Mayor Oreja, CEO of FCC Construcción; José Luis de la Torre Sánchez, CEO of FCC Servicios and FCC Versia; Eduardo González Gómez, Managing Director of FCC Energía; José Ignacio Elorrieta Pérez de Diego, Managing Director of Environment and Sustainability of Grupo Cementos Portland Valderrivas; Antonio Gómez Ciria, Managing Director of the Administration and IT Technologies Unit; Francisco Martín Monteagudo, Managing Director of Human Resources; José Manuel Velasco Guardado, Managing Director of Communications and Corporate Responsibility; and Javier López-Galiacho, Director of Corporate Responsibility acting as the Secretary.

The panel convened to analyze the short-listed entries previously selected by a technical committee made up of specialists in different business areas. After deliberating, it selected the projects presented by:

- **Lucia Monforte Guillot**, from the Environment Department of FCC Construcción Technical services, who won the prize for the category of the eco-efficient idea/project to improve the lives of citizens for the initiative "Sustainable Mobility in a responsible company".
- **Nuria Caba i Calbet**, from FCC Medio Ambiente's Barcelona office, who won the award in the efficient idea/project category for her project "Lawn management through the improved use of irrigation water".

The other projects awarded a diploma were those submitted by Pieter de Conninck from Flightcare Belgium "Potable Water. Review of tank disinfection & Water Treatment", and Álvaro González Rodríguez, who works at the Concessions Department of FCC Construcción for his project entitled "Electrolinera".

The awards were presented on 15 October at the Torre Picasso Headquarters in an event presided by Baldomero Falcones, the FCC Chairman and CEO.

One of FCC's main objectives to have the Company recognized for its eco-efficiency. The second edition of the Eco-Efficiency Award is planned for the first quarter of 2011 with the same objectives as this first edition.

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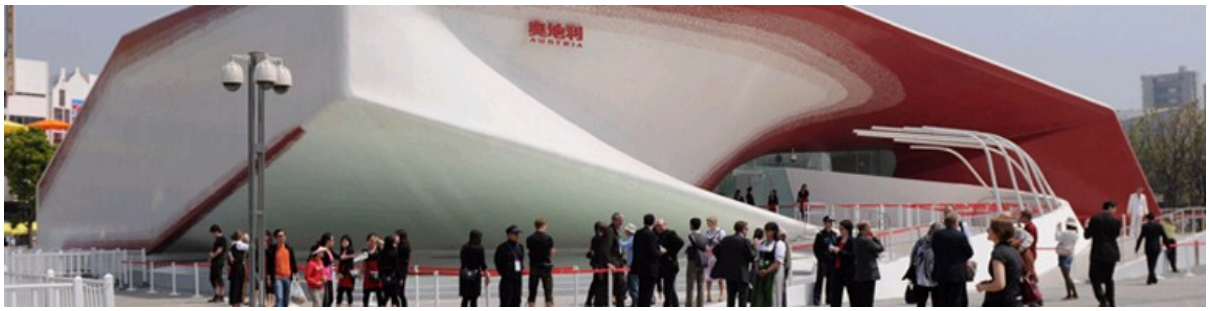

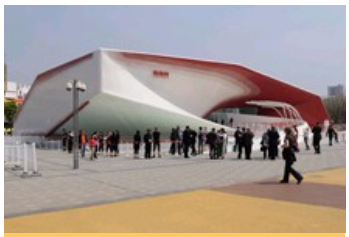

Austria's Pavilion, built by FCC, is one of the most visited at the Shanghai Expo.

The pavilion reflects the harmonious interaction of the city, landscape, nature, urban habitants, and the urban cultural sites, in a design spanning all the senses, innovative in its design and execution.

Built by the FCC subsidiary ALPINE, the Austrian Pavilion at Expo Shanghai 2010, the number of visitors recently surpassed the 1.5 million mark since the World Expo's inauguration on 1 May.

Spanning 2,000 m2, the pavilion is in one of the Expo's most representative locations: close to the Lupu Bridge and nearby the pavilions of Romania, the Netherlands, and Croatia. The design of the construction, with its rather futuristic appearance, was developed by the architectural offices SPAN & Zeytinoglu. FCC subsidiary Alpine Mayreder Construction Co. was selected as general contractor for the construction of the two-storey pavilion.

On the ground floor of the pavilion is the exhibition area (over 500 m2) with a stage positioned in the main room to be used for various events. In all exhibition rooms there will be staged multimedia performances on the ceilings, walls and floors. Furthermore, the ground floor accommodates the Austria Shop as well as the information counter of the Austrian National Tourist Office.
On the upper floor of the pavilion, the Austrian restaurant boasts an outdoor dining area. The adjacent VIP Lounge is open to Austrian companies, regions and organizations for receptions, events, and presentations.

The contract for the design of the Austrian pavilion for the Expo 2010 in Shanghai was awarded through an EU-wide public tender and by unanimous jury decision. The winning project is entitled "Austria: Feel the Harmony". The Austrian pavilion reflects the harmonious interaction of city, landscape, nature, urban habitats and urban cultural landscapes with a design that addresses all the senses and which is innovative in terms of both its architecture and its execution. Accordingly, Austria's participation definitely measures up to its chosen sub-theme, i.e. "Interaction between rural and urban areas".

According to Matías del Campo, of the architectural firm SPAN & Zeytinoglu, "The competition provided us with the opportunity to establish our ideas on elegance and form, continuity, and topological area in an international project, thereby creating a platform for the presentation of Austria."

The winning project showcases itself by means of dynamic-abstract architecture; the porcelain surface alludes to the century-long tradition of chinaware being exported from China to Europe. In a rather symbolic way, Austria transports back to China a seemingly porcelain object: its pavilion. The red and white design not only reflects the colors of the Austrian ensign, but red is also the traditional Chinese color for luck and happiness. The pavilion also has multimedia equipment, executed in cooperation with Kraftwerk Living Technologies GmbH, one of the leading suppliers for general technical solutions.

Presence in China

Subsidiary Austrian Bau GmbH beat out its rivals in an international tender. Alpine is a general contractor registered in China and, therefore, it is responsible not only for construction, but also for the interior and the multimedia equipment of the pavilion. The contract was valued at 5.5 million euro.

Alpine is an experienced partner for the Austrian project at the Expo, as it has been gaining experience in China as a joint venture enterprise for several years; it currently employs about 500 employees. The company's successful projects include the Ningbo Expressway, the Yellow River Diversion Project Tunnel 1 North Main Line, the BASF-YPC/IPS Engineering/Maintenance Center, the Haefele Hardware Factory and the ABB Turb DSystems Factory, as well as the Degussa Technical Center and the construction of the German School.

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RCD Espanyol Stadium picked as the world's best sports venue in 2010

The stadium won the Stadium Business Award 2010, organized by Guiness and the StadiumBusiness.com website, competing with more than 1,000 sports facilites throughout the world.

RCD Espanyol Stadium, built by FCC, has earned a new trophy, the 2010 Stadium Business Award for the world's best sports venue of the year. The competition, organised by Stadium Business Awards in association with Guinness, acknowledges the venues that do the best job of reconciling function with the actual prevailing conditions.

The two key aspects of the Espanyol Stadium candidacy that convinced the panel of judges were: the spectacular yet functional design by architects Esteban Gasulla and Mark Fenwick, which called for energy efficiency and energy-saving measures, and the stadium's value for money, since the club managed to build a great stadium with seating for more than 40,000 spectators for less than 85 million euro (financed with private capital).

After emerging victorious from all the selection phases, RCD Espanyol Stadium entered the last round of voting together with other major sports venues, such as Ricoh Arena (Coventry), O2 Stadium (London), Cowboys Stadium (Dallas), Twickenham Stadium (London) and Donbass Arena (Donetsk).

The organisers handed out the stadium's award at a ceremony held on 17 June at Guinness Storehouse in Dublin, Ireland, attended by the stadium's manager, Josep Toldrà.

FCC's experience building football stadiums

The FCC Group is thoroughly experienced at building major stadiums all over the world. One of its more outstanding examples is the Allianz Arena in Munich, seat of the official inauguration of the Germany 2006 FIFA World Cup and one of the world's most spectacular stadiums.

In addition, FCC has remodelled and enlarged Santiago Bernabéu Stadium for Real Madrid, Vicente Calderón Stadium for Atlético de Madrid, the Nou Camp facilities for F.C. Barcelona, the pitch at El Sardinero in Santander, the Joan Gamper Sports City for Barcelona and the new Real Madrid sports "city" in Valdebebas.

In 2007 FCC won a contract to build a new stadium for Valencia Club de Fútbol, to replace the old Mestalla venue with a new facility capable of seating 75,000 spectators.

Furthermore, for the 2008 European Football Championship, FCC, through its subsidiary ALPINE, remodelled and enlarged Wals-Siezenheim Stadium in Salzburg (seating 30,000), Tivoli Stadium in Innsbruck (seating 31,600) and Wörthersee Stadium in Klagenfurt (which won the Construction Award given by the Austrian state of Carinthia).

For the 2012 European Football Championship, which is going to be held in Poland, FCC is building the Baltic Arena in Gdansk (seating 44,000), Poznan Stadium in Posen (seating 47,000) and Warsaw National Stadium (seating 55,000). In addition, it is remodelling and enlarging Krakow Stadium.

The agreement was signed by Francisco Martín Monteagudo, on the left, Managing Director of FCC's Human Resources departmentand by Julio Laria del Vas, on the right, Managing Director of Road Safety.

FCC and Fundación Mapfre enter into a collaboration agreement to develop the Strategic Road Safety Plan 2010-2015

The agreement contemplates the exchange of media, information, knowledge, and experience within the freamework of Strategic Road Safety Plan 2010-2015 that FCC is currently developing.

FCC and Fundación Mapfre executed a collaboration agreemento on road safety to establish the exchange of media, information, knowledge, and experiences within the framework of the Strategic Road Safety Plan 2010-2015 that FCC is currently developing and, for which, Mapfre will provide the company's with its online platform and will carry out numerous and varied actions and services through its Road Safety Institute.

The agreement was signed by Francisco Martín Monteagudo, FCC's managing director of Human Resources, and by Julio Laria del Vas, Managing Director of Road Safety. The document outlines the guidelines for the collaboraiton agreement which reflects both entities'conern and interest in developing, sponsoring, and coordinating activities to build awareness so as to contibute to the prevention of traffic accidents and to encourage road safety education.

FCC, as part of its commitment to constant improvement and in line with its policy of Citizen Services and Employee Services, is addressing the social and work problems stemming from road accidents so as to encourage a culture of road safety within the organization through the Strategic Road Safety Plan 2010-2015 which will be promoted through the agreement executed with the Mapfre Foundation.

This agreement establishes several collaboration plans contemplating: qualified personnel; research projects and programs and bilateral or multinateral development; training plans; advisory services, participation, promotion, and collaboration; the exchange of books, publications and other research and educational materal; and several activities involving road safety, education, and mobility.

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A global presence

ALPINE, an FCC Group company, operates around the world. With construction sales totalling 3.4 billion Euros in 2009 and with a workforce of 15,234 employees ALPINE is Austria's second leading constriction group.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk welcomes the guests

ALPINE celebrates the completion of the roof of the Danzig soccer stadium, Poland

The roof of the Gdansk (Danzig) arena, an Alpine-executed project, consists of 82 elements each weighing approximately 66 tons.

The traditional wreath was hung 45 meters above the pitch of the Gdańsk (Danzig) Arena – one of three prestigious football stadiums being built in Poland by ALPINE for the UEFA Euro 2012 – to celebrate the completion of the steel roof structure.

The gusts of honor included the prime minister of Poland, Donald Tusk; the Minsister of Sports and Tourism, Adam Giersz; el the President of the European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek, and the Chairman of the Polish Soccer Federation, Grzegorz Lato.

The roof of the Gdansk Arena soccer stadium, built under the lead management of ALPINE, consists of 82 elements each weighting approximately 66 tons which have been installed since the beginning of May and which are currently being held by gigantic supports to be removed when all of the roof elements have been installed and connected to the ring. The steel roof will weigh nearly 7,200 tons.

Almost 12,000 visitors took advantage of the opportunity to see the progress achieved at their local stadium during an open house event.

Gdansk Arena

Construction of the Danzig stadium started on December 15, 2008; the cornerstone was laid on July 15, 2009. Construction is scheduled for completion by January 21, 2011. The entire project will cost 156 million Euros. The first match is to be played in the summer of 2011 at this stadium, which will be able to seat 44,000 spectators.

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Flightcare welcoms Mrs. Obama and daughter Sasha

Flightcare accompanied Michelle Obama when she landed at Malaga Airport to start summer holidays.

Flightcare accompanied Michelle Obama when she landed at Malaga Airport to begin her summer holidays. The visit of the first lady of the United States had an advertising impact of 19.3 million euros.

Malaga Airport. 10:30 a.m. on 3 August 2010. Camera flashes capatured the arrival of the first lady and her youngest daughter Sasha when both arrived in Andalucia aboard the Air Force Two which clearly showed the Flightcare logo, which went unnoticed due to the importance of the two visitors.

Flightcare provides airport handling services in fourteen airports. In 2009, the company posted 228 million Euros in sales. It provides services to more than 250 companies and has 1,100 employees. For example, in Rome, it is the main handling aget. Its market share at Leonorado da Vinci (Fiumicino) airport in Rome is 41%, and has been seen on several ocassions accompanying the Pope.

The use of the most innovative technology is one of this company's trademarks. In 1999, it was the first Spanish agent to use towbares push-back equipment and is currently planing to install powerstow technology at airports. This technology, recently approved by the European Union, expedites luggage loading nad unloading operations, ensuring safety.
Flightcare joitly wih Iberia Airport Services, Globalia Handling, Newco Airport Services, and Acciona Airport Services, is one of Spain's leaders in airport handling services.

An unprecedented boost for the Spain's tourist industry

The visit by the first lady of the United States and her daughter Sasha had an advertising impact of 19.3 million euros, according to Kantar Media, a company specialising in media monitoring and measuring TV audiences.

The first lady's visit gave a great boost to Spain's tourist industry, generating 1,423 news items.

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Open house at Vidin-Calafat Bridge over the Danube

More than 80 people were able to visit the most important Bulgarian construction project being built by FCC.

FCC organized an open house event at the sites of the work to build the bridge over the Danube between the cities of Vidin, Bulgaria, and Calafat, Romania. More than 80 people, accompanied by authorities and the media, visited the location of the bridge work, which is being executed by FCC.

The guests observed how the bridge is being built from a temporary peninsula, and they toured the site of the work being done in the navigable channel of the river, the free-trade zone facilities (where all the concrete segments needed to build the bridge and its flyovers are being cast) and some of the sites where related infrastructure work is being done (Novo Selo and Bregovo junctions, the goods station and the Kula flyover).

The biggest Bulgarian construction project, the second bridge over the Danube is spans over 1,951 meters. The project involves the construction of a combined bridge for road and railway traffic. It contains four vehicle lanes, a single set of rails, a bicycle lane and two sidewalks for pedestrians and service uses. Also included in the project is the construction of the necessary infrastructure for road and rail traffic; this includes a new goods station, seven new kilometers of rail, the upgrading of the existing passenger station and the construction of seven junctions.

The infrastructure forms part of Corridor IV, which joins Dresden, Germany, and Istanbul, Turkey. More than 600 people, 75% of whom are Bulgarian, are working on the construction project.

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SmVak Ostrava's employee training program obtains EU funding

In-house and external career development for 100 participating employees.

As part of the "Operational Human Resources and Occupation Program" SmVak obtained a 145,000 Euros grant from the European Social Fund (FSE) to develop a training program for SmVak employees.

Overall professional development, in-house an externally, is one of the objectives of this program in which over 100 employees will participate, including executives, technicians, and administrative staff. These goals will be achieved by:

- Developing the efficiency and competitiveness of SmVak.
- Developing specific technical knowledge in end-to-end water management.
- Improving employees' qualifications.
- Increasing motivation at work.

The development program was designed after performing a detailed analysis of the community within the scope of employee training. This analysis served as the basis for a training program focused on management of water projects and other specific training for employees. In addition to theory, the seminars will also focus on applying knowledge which will significantly increase the effectiveness of the various training activities.

Lasting until May 1012 the program will be divided into three blocks:

- Technical Training I, offering courses on the problems involved in potable water production and distribution.
- Technical Training II, specific courses in the waste water evacuation and treatment sector.
- Administrative training, modules concentrating on achieving comprehensive knowledge on the European IFRS guidelines (International Financial Reporting Standards) at water management companies.

This is the first time that the company SmVaK Ostrava obtains public funding for its personnel training.

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The winners accompanied by their families travelled to Aqualia's headquarters in Madrid where Pedro Rodríguez, the Manager of Corporate Development, gave out the awards.

Drawing Contest prizes for the children of Aqualia employees.

The winners received their prizes in Madrid and celebrated their success accompanied with a visit to the Santiago Bernabéu soccer stadium accompanied by their parents.

Aqualia handed out the Drawing Contest prizes to the children of employees, which was organized following the example of the International Children's Drawing Contest held every year in Spain, Italy and Portugal. Many of the employees' family members participated in the first edition of this contest, and 108 drawings were submitted in which the children reflected the vision they have of the work that their parents perform.

More than 100 drawings were submitted in the first edition.

The Organizing Committee chose ten finalists among all the entries who received a "Koloro Da Vinci" drawing kits with the winner given a Nintendo Wii. The prize winners, accompanied by their parents, went to Aqualia's headquarters in Madrid where Pedro Rodríguez, the Manager of Corporate Development, handed out the prizes. After this event, they were taken to the Santiago Bernabéu soccer stadium where they enjoyed a guided tour of the home of the Real Madrid Soccer Team followed by a lunch at these installations.

This initiative, which was highly successful (in terms of participation and also based on the opinion of those who took part) will be repeated net year, hoping to include a greater number of employees' family members. The Contest Organizers expressed their appreciation for the involvement and commitment of Aqualia personnel, hoping to continue to count with their participation in future years, and who are entrusted to continue disseminating the culture of water throughout the world.

For further information on the Contest and to see the winning entries and photographs of the event, please go to the respective section at corporate intranet.

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FEATURE ARTICLE: Work on the Malaga Subway making strides

The concession company of the Andalusian Regional Government is one of the most capitalized companies with headquarters in Andalucía.

Metro de Malaga (Malaga's Subway System) already received the authorization from the Ministry of Public Works Road Department to start the construction of the tunnel under the West ring-road. Work is scheduled to start in October on this tunnel which passes under a highway supporting traffic of more than 100,000 vehicles per day.
Thanks to this permit, excavation work on Line 1 up to Guadalmedina will be completed and only one last section has to be completed, with work scheduled to begin in 2011 according to Malaga's City Council. The tunnel will be built using the excavation method.
With a length of 60 meters and at a depth of around 15 meters, the first phase of the tunnel project will consist of the construction of 40 micro-piles, each with a diameter of 20 centimeters, which will serve to protect and support the ground in order to be able to safely remove the earth. This will create a vault measuring from five to seven meters in diameter.

About 8,000 cubic meters of earth will be excavated.

Capital increase of up to 136 million Euros

A few months ago, Metro de Malaga, the concession of the Junta de Andalucía, responsible for the project, construction, and operations of Lines 1 and 2 of the Malaga subway system, carried out a 42 million Euro capital increase, bringing its total capital to 136 million Euros.

The volume of equity makes this company, held by FCC, Sando, Azvi, Comsa Vera, Cajamar, and the Junta de Andalucia (through Giasa) one of the most capitalized companies with registered offices in Andalucia.

The capital increase, approved on 26 March of this year by the AGM of Metro de Malaga, fits in with the definition of a new technical and budget model for this transport system, and is in addition to the 375 million Euro loan extended by the European Investment Bank (EIB) to Metro de Malaga. The latter loan was also signed on 26 March by the concession company, the EU's financial entity, and by Rosa Aguilar, the councilor for Public Works and Housing of Junta de Andalucía.

Work on Line 1 and 2 of the Malaga subway system, covering more than 86% of the total route, began in June 2006 with work on the first section of Line 2. During this period, substantial upgrades have been incorporated to the projects of both lines so as to enhance the functionality and safety of the future underground system as well as its interconnection with other transport hubs in Malaga, such as the María Zambrano Station (suburban, regional, and high-speed trains) and the metropolitan bus station.

These improvements in the final definition of the projects also address the requests of other administrations involved, such as Malaga City Council, and the Administrator of Railway Infrastructures (ADIF).

After technically resolving all these upgrades, the investment budget in the Malaga Subway System increased to 651 million euro, which also required an economic adjustment in the financing model. This prompted the concession company, Metro de Málaga, to increase its share capital to an amount equivalent to 20% of the total investment in accordance with the contract specifications of the administrative concession tender for the project.

The other source of funding is the EIB's loan, increased for this purpose, and the

contributions of the Junta de Andalucía, as well as the finance agreement entered into by the Government of Andalucia and the State to fund Metro de Málaga.

Line 1 and Line 2 of the Malaga subway system stretch over 14 kilometers and have 20 stations. The underground part accounts for 80% of the total length. It goes through highly populated areas, such as the Cadiz Road district and Calle Unión, as well as through the city's midtown district (Alameda Principal, Plaza de la Marina and La Malagueta). It will also cover areas such as the University, the clinical hospital, and the City of Justice. The subway lines will also have a central interchange near the María Zambrano Railway Station which will make it possible to connect the two subway lines with other railway services (suburban, mid-distance, and high-speed trains) as

The facilities and systems of Metro de Malaga incorporate innovation and state-of-the art features, such as the gate system at the platforms, its underground stations, and the signaling system which will greatly improve the frequency of train passings.

The estimated number of passengers of Lines 1 and 2 of the Malaga Subway System is 17.1 million for the first year and around 21 million on the tenth year of operations.

One of the key characteristics of the project is the duration of the rides: 17 minutes for line 1 and 15 minutes for line 2, with subways passing every 6 minutes in peak hours, 10 minutes in off-peak hours, and 15 minutes late at night.

According to the timetable contemplated by the regional government and Metro de Málaga, Line 2 and the above-ground stretch of Line 1 will start operations at the end of next year and the other sections starting in 2012.

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Gráfico adjudicaciones 2010
Ver gráfico

FCC bolsters its internationalization strategy, landing contracts worth more than 5 billion Euros in 2010

Grupo FCC increased its business abroad, accounting for 44% of revenues. Sales abroad in the first half of the year represented 43.8% of the total versus 43.1% at year-end 2009, and the international backlog grew 18.6% in the first six months of the year.

FCC's international diversification strategy is beginning to bear fruit. The citizen services group's international growth strategy has been vindicated as it has landed close to 5 billion euro in new contracts to date, including the construction of a toll road in Slovenia and refurbishment of the TV broadcast building for the London 2012 Olympics.

Geographic and business diversification is having a significant impact on the group's bottom line. So far this year, international revenues accounted for 43.8% of the total, compared with 43.1% AT December 2009.

International activities proved to be more dynamic than the domestic business in 2010, having expanded its backlog by 18.6%.

On the top of the list is the contract this year for the construction and management of tthe D1 motorway in Slovakia, the largest awarded this year. In the first quarter of 2010, a 50:50 joint venture of FCC and subsidiary Alpine obtained the 1.99 billion euro contract to build and manage the road. The project, which involves building 10.6 km of tunnels and 7.6 km of bridges, is part of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) and is the country's primary transverse highway connecting it with Austria and Eastern Europe. The financing arrangements are expected to be completed in the coming months.

Algeria has become a market with great potential due to its economic development programme, which focuses on infrastructure, energy and desalination. Early in May, FCC, in a joint venture with Algerian company ETRHB HADDAD, was awarded a contract to design and build a 185-km railway line running west of the capital city, Algiers, and connecting the towns of Relizane, Tiaret and Tissemesilt. The project has a budget of 935.5 million euro and a construction deadline of 54 months.

The contract, awarded by the Transport Ministry via ANESRIF (National Agency of Studies and of Follow-up of the Realization of the Railway Investment), is part of the 2009-2014 economic development programme promoted by Algeria's President, Abdelaziz Bouteflika. The programme has a budget of 114 billion euro, a large part of which is aimed at infrastructure construction.
FCC, which specialises in citizen services, is already operating in Algeria through water management subsidiary Aqualia, which has been awarded two major contracts by the state-owned Algerian Energy Company (AEC) to build and manage two macro seawater desalination plants at Mostaganem and Cap Djinet. Together they represent revenues of more than 1.1 billion euro, and are managed by a 50:50 joint venture with Inima, an OHL subsidiary.

FCC had previously obtained a 359 million euro contract to build a sports complex in the Algerian city of Tizi Ouzou. The project includes the construction of a football stadium with 50,000 seats in roofed grandstands and an athletics stadium with capacity for 6,500 people.

Aqualia in Portugal and Egypt

Aqualia is also making a major contribution. In February, the company closed financing for its first public-private partnership in Egypt, for the design, construction and management (during 20 years) of a wastewater treatment plant in Cairo, representing 360 million euro in revenues.

Aqualia clinched a new contract to manage water supply and sewage in the city of Fundao in the central part of Portugal. The 30-year contract will provide a backlog of over 190 million euro. Including the contracts obtained in Portugal so far this year, that figure amounts to almost 470 million euro.

London Olympics and Eurocup in Poland

FCC's international expansion is also benefiting from the London 2012 Olympic Games. Olympic Broadcasting Services, the agency in charge of broadcasting the London Games, has awarded a 20 million euro contract to refurbish its London base and maintain it during the Games to a joint venture involving an FCC subsidiary. The installations will provide services to accredited press, radio and TV journalists at the Games.

Alpine, the subsidiary that operates in Central and Eastern Europe, continues to contribute to the Group's international expansion. Late in June, it added yet another Polish contract in addition to those obtained earlier in the year. The Salzburg-based construction company won a 245 million euro contract to build the S5 expressway in Poland under a joint venture consisting of Alpine, PBG S.A Posen and its subsidiaries Aprivia S.A and Hydrobudowa Polska S.A.

Alpine will head the consortium. The project consists of building a highway between Posen, which will host the inaugural match of the UEFA EURO 2012, and Wroclaw, including bypasses around the cities of Bojanowa and Rawicza. As part of the preparations for the UEFA EURO 2012 soccer championship in Poland, FCC is building stadiums in Krakow, Danzig, Posen and the National Stadium in Warsaw. These projects put FCC at the forefront in the construction of large sports facilities worldwide.

It has also been awarded a 140 million euro contract to complete the section of the A1 toll road between ?wierklany and Gorzyczki, in Poland. The section of the road measures

18.3 kilometres extending from the ?wierklany junction to Gorzyczki on the southern border with the Czech Republic. The project includes building two junctions, two rest areas and 31 bridges. The largest single item is a 380-metre cable-stayed bridge.

In preparation for UEFA Euro 2008, FCC subsidiary Alpine remodelled and expanded the following stadiums: Wals-Siezenheim in Salzburg (30,000 seats), Tivoli in Innsbruck (31,600), and Wörthersee in Klagenfurt, which won a construction award from the state of Carinthia in Austria.

The citizen services company also has extensive experience building football stadiums in Spain. Among other projects, it has remodelled the Santiago Bernabéu and Vicente Calderón stadiums in Madrid, and the Nou Camp facilities in Barcelona; and it built the Sardinero Stadium for Santander, the Joan Gamper training ground, for Barcelona, the new training ground at Valdebebas for Real Madrid, and Español's new pitch at Cornellà. The Cornellà stadium was named Venue of the Year by the 2010 Stadium Business Awards.

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FCC to install the first digital newstands in New York in September

The area selected for the installation of the eight digital newstands is Times Square. These innovative stands will replace the traditional paper ads on the back and sides of the stands with digital LCD panels.

New Yorkers will be looking at a new streetscape when they return from their summer holidays. FCC subsidiary Cemusa, specialized in the design, manufacture, installation and maintenance of urban furniture, will install the world's first digital newsstands in New York in September. The stands will be located in Times Square, world-renowned for its cinemas, theatres and New Year's Eve festivities.

These innovative stands will feature digital LCD panels instead of the traditional paper ads. This innovative format to be introduced in the Big Apple by Cemusa will provide new venues for selling advertising space. Their principal advantage is the technological and groundbreaking appeal for advertisers, who can also include interactive messages with audio, enabling users to connect headphones to the newsstand.

This new method of advertising will be sold in time modules, similar to TV commercials. Each screen has room for up to 8 advertisers with looped messages of up to 30 seconds each. The loops, lasting up to 8 minutes, will mix advertising with information of general interest.

The official tariff is $96,000 (around €75,000 at current exchange rates) per 30-second spot, which will appear on the newsstands every 8 minutes. Three major American multinationals, whose identities cannot be revealed at this time, have already signed advertising space on the new facilities.

The newsstands will be located in Times Square, as it is the only area where NYC allows this type of multimedia installation; the area is classified as being of high commercial value. The first phase includes the installation of 8 digital newsstands (which could increase to at most 11), confined to Times Square.

Global bidding record

In 2006, NYC awarded FCC (controlled by Esther Koplowitz) a 20-year contract to install and operate advertising on urban furniture in the city.

This is the largest urban furniture advertising contract in the world, and bidders included the world's leading companies in the field of outdoor advertising and communication, such as Viacom, Clear Channel, Van Wagner with Verizon and JC Decaux with NBC-Universal. Cemusa expects revenues amounting to 1.6 billion euro over the 20-year concession.

As part of its commitment to New York City, the Cemusa maintains an office in midtown Manhattan. The contract created 85 direct jobs and another 85 jobs through sub-contracting with partners in the five boroughs. The contract also envisages the installation of 3,300 new bus shelters and 330 newsstands, replacing older versions in both cases, as well as 20 new automatic public toilets.

Presence in 13 countries

Cemusa, which has been operating since 1984, specializes in the design, manufacture, installation and maintenance of urban furniture. It is one of the leading outdoor advertising groups in the world, providing quality service in 13 countries spanning Europe, North America and Latin America. It offers a wide range of street furniture, such as bus shelters, automatic toilets, newsstands, information panels, recycling containers and public bicycle hire systems.

Cemusa is a member of various advertising associations and other professional entities.

It is currently Vice-President of the International Federation of Outdoor Advertising (www.fepe.com) and Chairman of the Spanish Outdoor Advertising Association (AEPE).

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The .A.S.A. campaign: "Together for an European Municipality"

Wth the support of local corporations .A.S.A. has lanched a campaign to explain the benefits of recycling.

.A.S.A. launched a campaign in Romania to explain the benefits of recycling for the future, under the slogan "TOGETHER FOR AN EUROPEAN MUNICIPALITY! .A.S.A. will count on the support of local corporations who will participate in collecting paper and cardboard, plastic and briks, at municipal green points.

Romania's cities and towns, pursuant to Section 9.p) of Decree 196/2005 on the Enviroment, have the obligation of reducing by 15% the volume of urban and similar waste that is collected and handled. This measure entered into force on 1 July 2010. The municipalities that fail to meet this target will have to pay 100 Lei to the regional administration of each ton of unrecycled waste. In the event that they exceed this target, they will receive a financial reward.

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The People's Hall (Hala Ludowa)

Once called the Centennial Hall, the hall was renamed Hala Ludowa ("People's Hall) after World War II. The hall hosted the World Congress of Intellectuals for Peace in August 1948. With 6,000 seats and standing room for 20,000, the hall is an impressive pioneering work of 20th century architecture. The building paved the way for the use of reinforced concrete in the construction of large public buildings. The building's innovative design is responsible for the feeling of lightness and harmony emanating from the enormous dome. It was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2006. The cupola has a diameter of 65 meters and a height of 42 meters.

Indoor view of the Hall, with Mikolajonek Maciej

Refurbishment of the "People's Hall", a World Heritage Site, receives award

ALPINE won the "Construction Site of the Year 2009" in rehabiliation at the conclusion of the refurbishment of the "People's Hall" (Hala Ludowa) in Breslau.

We succeeded in demonstrating ALPINE's competence by rehabilitating the Hala Ludowa Hall, a tremendous technical/civil engineering challenge," says Dr. Peter Preindl, Managing Director of ALPINE Bau GmbH, elated at winning the prize for the "Hall of the Century Rehabilitation" in Breslau.

Sponsored by the Polish Association of Construction Engineers and Technicians, ALPINE won the "Construction Site of the Year 2009" in the rehabilitation of monuments category (second class award). A total of six projects were submitted in this category, one winning a first class award. The historically significant hall, also visited by the late Pope Paul II, was rehabilitated in accordance with "World Heritage Site" standards.

"We are proud that this challenging project won such an important prize in the construction branch," adds the pleased site manager, Mikolajonek Maciej.

ALPINE garnered particular praise in a letter from Michael Berg, the son of Max Paul Eduard Berg, the Hall of the Century architect in Breslau, emphasizing: "I'm pleased that the hall was not only renovated as a monument but – with the modern technology installed – can be used as a multipurpose hall."

The Hall's reconstruction, ranging from the insulation of the roof to the rehabilitation of the concrete and windows, makes it the first seminal reinforced concrete building to shine in new splendor. Today it is used as a venue for movies, congresses and other events such as rock concerts, sports, theater and operas.

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FCC in the United States

FCC has been operating in the US since 1984, when Portland Valderrivas built a cement terminal in Boston. The company subsequently acquired three cement factories, in Maine, South Carolina and Pennsylvania, as well as other cement assets on the Eastern Seaboard, including seven distribution terminals.

It has invested 420 million dollars (around 335 million euro at the current exchange rate) in the three plants in order to make them more efficient and, above all, to fulfill more stringent environmental and safety requirements.

Another FCC subsidiary, Cemusa, which is specialized in designing urban furniture and selling advertising space, won the concession for bus shelters in Miami in 2002. It won the Boston contract in 2003 and the New York contract in 2005. The latter is the largest such contract ever awarded by New York City.

At the end of 2007, FCC Ámbito bought from Siemens two US subsidiaries specialized in processing and recovering industrial waste oils and other oil services for 182.4 million dollars (about 145 million euro at the current exchange rate). As a result, the Spanish infrastructure, environmental services and energy group, which is controlled by Esther Koplowitz, bec

Award for FCC's frst toll road in the USA

The highway features an innovative express lanes management system enabling drivers to travel faster and avoid traffic jams by paying a toll that varies with the speed of traffic in the other lanes.

The I-95 Express Miami Project, built by FCC, has been named "Best in Construction 2010" in the category of Design and Construction by the Florida Transportation Builders Association (FTBA). This is the first project in the USA to be awarded to the Spanish citizen services group.

FCC was awarded the prize on the basis of deadline fulfillment, relations with the community, lack of accidents, and the contractor's quality and innovation; the jury included representatives of the Florida Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). FCC will collect the award tomorrow at the FTBA's annual convention.

The contract, budgeted at 121.5 million dollars (around 100 million euro) involved widening both sides of a 17.7 kilometer stretch of Interstate 95, in the northern part of the Greater Miami area, in order to transition from one HOV (High-Occupancy Vehicle) lane to two HOT (High-Occupancy Toll) lanes while maintaining the same number of toll-free lanes (3-5, depending on the section). The project will be extended to over 38.4 kilometers (24 miles) of roads and two additional contracts will be tendered apart from the one awarded to FCC.
Innovative traffic management system

The highway features an innovative express lanes management system enabling drivers to travel faster and avoid traffic jams by paying a toll that varies with the speed of traffic in the other lanes.

The toll is higher when traffic in the other lanes is slower (i.e. rush hour) and lower when traffic there is faster. Speed is measured by cameras and the toll is calculated automatically.

To use these barrier-free toll lanes, drivers must have a Sunpass transponder, enabling the toll to be registered without having to stop at a toll plaza. In August 2009, I- 95 also received the America's Transportation Award in the "Innovative Management" category, from SASHTO (Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials), which is part of AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials).

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The first women working in waste collection in Madrid

Purificación Aires and Mercedes Martínez are the first two women working in waste collection trucks in Madrid. They believe that a woman is able to perform this job perfectly.

It's 6:30 a.m. and Purificación Aires and Mercedes Martínez have been up since 4:30 a.m. and have just arrived at work. Their working day starts now. They are always smiling, willing and ready to start working. José Antonio, the truck driver, accompanies them today. They are the first two women who work in the waste collection department in Madrid. Early in the morning, they left FCC's waste collection site in Fuente de Mora, in the Hortaleza district and we decided we wanted to join them. They like their work and, once inside the truck which collects the containers, Puri and Merce, as they are known, tell us about their first year on this job.

"We are very happy", they chime in together, "it's a new job and at first, we were a bit scared. It has been a hard year but it was worth it".

They tell us that this is the type of job that any woman can perform perfectly, that dumping the containers inside the waste collection truck may seem difficult at first, but that it is not that complicated and it becomes easier as the months go by. They feel very proud that the service they provide contributes to the cleanliness of the city. Every day, they collect thousands of tons of waste, and that it is a great feeling when one gets up in the morning and sees that everything is clean and one is thankful for having had our waste taken away.

Their colleagues have given them a great welcome, "they have behaved extraordinarily well with us; we have no complaints and enjoy their company". Whenever one of them sees that they are not able to handle a container, they come right away and help them since, as they say, they are all members of the same team.

"We have been very lucky at work and also in the street. At first, people stopped us and told us that they had seen us on TV. Our children are very happy with the work that we perform and are proud to have us as their mothers."

Puri and Merce tell us that they are very pleased with the way that FCC has treated them and they would not change this job for anything in the world. "We are very happy to work at FCC; it is a great company, they treat us very well and provide all the equipment that we need to perform our job. We have no complaints and our job, consisting of providing citizen services, is highly satisfying. They may consider getting a truck driving license. However, they believe that driving such a large truck might be quite difficult and will have to think twice before they do so.

It has been a good year for them and they hope that the second year will just as satisfying. So far, everything has been positive and they expect to continue working on this job for the rest of their lives.

The incorporation of Puri and Merce in the workforce is within the framework of the Equality Plan signed last January by FCC Medio Ambiente. The plan contemplates several measures with the objective of providing equal opportunities for both men and women and to eliminate any sign whatsoever of discrimination because of sex. TITULO.A.S.A. employees in action.

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.A.S.A. employees in action

Successful first phase of training courses in the Czech Republic.

.A.S.A. has started to provide training courses in the Czech Republic to improve the professional skills and knowledge of its employees as part of the framework Operational Program of Human Resources and Employment (HREOP). Set to last two years, the Operational Program is funded by the E.U. Social Fund and the budget of the Czech Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs. Some of the colleagues at the .A.S.A. subsidiaries are shown in the photographs carrying out their daily solid waste collection, elimination, classification, and recycling tasks. .A.S.A. is the leading waste management company in Central and Eastern Europe, operating in Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Poland.

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Juan Díaz de Esteban shares his remembrances with Red de Comunicación

The Pamplona City Council gave this award in recognition of his professional career.

Juan Díaz Esteban, one of our colleagues working in the Pamplona cleaning service, wanted to share the award that the Pamplona City Council gave him in 2007 in recognition for his professional career and his for his concern and great interest in keeping the city clean.

This year marks his 25th year working at FCC, "exactly half of my life working at FCC. I feel very proud and hope that I can continue to work at this job for the rest of my life", he told us.

He has very fond memories of this award. "The fact that the Pamplona City Council thought of me and gave me this award was a great boost for me and gave me a lot of strength" he said. It was the first time that this award was given to anyone who is not a public servant.

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Two FCC employees save the life of a citizen

Sergio Ortiz Marín and Raúl Pérez Tarrago are the two protagonists of this story with a happy ending. Both are technicians in sports activities and lifesavers at the Mandor sports complex in L'Eliana (Valencia).

A motorcycle driver lost consciousness on 9 July after suffering a heart attack at L'Eliana (Valencia). One of our colleagues, Emma Morales, who works at the Mandor sports complex, managed by FCC, in this town, was completing her work shift at 9:00 a.m. when she left work and found a group of people trying to help someone who was unconscious and was on the ground.

She immediately went back to the sports facility and notified Delia Martí, the manager of the Mandor pool and sports complex. They dialed the emergency number, 112, and through the loudspeakers asked if there was a doctor close by who could take care of the person on lying on the ground.

The Manager also called Sergio Ortiz Marín who was working as a lifesaver at the pool, and Raúl Pérez Tarrego, the monitor of the fitness room. Both are sports technicians and life savers; Sergio is also a physiotherapist.

For more than 20 minutes, they took turns giving the victim massages to reanimate him, succeeding in this task. "Thanks to the professionalism of the lifesavers and the reanimation team at the sports facilities, we can congratulate ourselves on this happy ending and also congratulate those who played a major role in bringing this person back to life", said Felix Araque Serrano, the Head of Production at the Valencia Ext.Levante Medio Ambiente branch.

Our two colleagues described what happened: "When we arrived at the place of the incident, we found a man who was about 45 years old. He was lying on the ground, probably suffering from a cardio-respiratory condition, and a bystander was giving him a heart massage. When they saw us arrive with all the equipment, they let allowed us to take over and act very rapidly.

Sergio described what happened: "We assessed the situation, confirming that it was in fact a cardio-respiratory failure and started to perform bag-mask ventilation while my colleague took turns every five minutes performing chest compressions.

The first ambulance, without a physician, arrived in about 10 to 15 minutes and we continued performing the cardio-lung reanimation jointly with the ambulance staff. The second ambulance arrived 20 minutes later, this time accompanied by a physician who started to provide first-aid care. After about 45 minutes, we were able to confirm that vital signs had been restored and the patient was transferred to a hospital".

"For us, helping the patient was a great satisfaction. The last we heard, he was back at home with his family. In this case, teamwork was essential for the successful outcome".

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Students in the Czech Republic collect more than 2.5 million kilograms of paper

86,390 students from 470 schools throughout the Czech Republic participated in this edition of the competition.

The traditional ecology-teaching project known as "Competing with Mr. Popela" was repeated in 2010-2011 school year. The goal of this project is to establish a continued system for collecting all paper used in schools.

A total of 470 schools throughout the Czech Republic representing 86,390 students participated in the eighth edition of this competition organized by .A.S.A. for collecting raw materials used in schools. More than 2,545,952 kilograms of used paper were collected.

The results were assessed in two categories according to each region: the average weight of paper collected per student and the total weight of all collected paper. The schools that accumulated the most points were awarded sports materials, board games, and promotional articles.

.A.S.A. plans to organize this competition again in 2011. All information on this event will be posted in the .A.S.A. website.

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MANAGEMENT

The FCC Volunteers website

FCC volunteers collaborate in many generous programs organized by the Esther Koplowitz Foundation, mainly at the three retirement homes in Madrid, Valencia, and Barcelona.

The "FCC Volunteers" program is now into its second year. This corporate citizen initiative aims to facilitate access and voluntary involvement in social programs to as many Group employees as possible.

In this first phase, FCC Volunteers collaborate in several generous social actions organized by the Esther Koplowitz Foundation, mainly at the three retirement homes which the foundation has built in Madrid, Valencia, and Barcelona.

In its second year, the FCC corporate volunteers launched the initiative known as "Fridays at the Homes", organizing presentations and debates among guests and the residents of these homes. Thanks to this initiative, FCC won the "Ciudadanos" award.

Now that the program is consolidated, and with a renewed interest in advancing in its commitment to the community, the Corporate Department of Communications and Corporate Responsibility has launched the "Volunteers Website". The objective is to be able to efficiently coordinate this network of solidarity created by people who work for the Group, as well as family members and friends, who contribute their enthusiasm, knowledge, and time to improve the life and welfare of the groups most in need.

This website will be available via Intranet and in the main page of the Group's website. It contains information on the proposed activities and the partners of the Volunteers Program.
In addition, it will provide graphic and written information on the projects already carried out and on seminars or other scheduled events

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Javier is the head of operations at Flightcare's headquarters in Levante.

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Javier Aranda, our volunteer at the "La Nostra Casa" home in Valencia. A great example!

He is the head of operations at Flightcare's headquarters in Levante and spends part of his free as a volunteer at the Nostra Casa retirement home.

Javier Aranda Ortega is a volunteer at the La Nostra Casa home in Valencia, which the Esther Koplowitz Foundation donated the Valencia City Council in 2004. The home provides healthcare and accommodations to those suffering from serious mental disorders, physical and those affecting the senses.

It features the most modern treatment methods for these disabilities, has 60 beds for residents and space for 40 patients at the daycare center, where residents receive personalized care according to their needs, thereby providing great relief to their family members.

Javier is the head of operations at Flightcare's headquarters in the Levante region and spends part of his free time performing volunteer services at the La Nostra Casa home. To coordinate his activities, Javier meets with the supervisor and personnel at the home on the first Monday of each month to assess and schedule the tasks that he wants to perform during that specific month.

He goes to the home on Mondays and Wednesday, and focuses on providing comfort and making leisure time more enjoyable for the youngsters at the residence. "I enjoy their company and friendship", he told us, adding "I receive much more than I give".

Depending on the season, the activities are performed inside or outside the center. There are many different games at the center, from the most modern ones such as the Play Station, Scalextric (model trains), or Karaoke, as well as more traditional games such as Parcheesi, "petanca", and miniature soccer. Cooking workshops, meditation, corporal expression, and relax, magician classes, pottery-making, are also scheduled. Birthdays have also been organized at the facility with clowns and story-tellers.

Javier has been providing support in recent months to the youngsters by giving computer classes which have contributed to promoting other related activities. "A TV set and several computers have been donated, all of which will help us set up an IT and e-game room, since these kids love music, films, and through these resources, we contribute to making the fine arts much more enjoyable".

Extraordinary activities

The activities that Javier organizes include guided visits to Manises Airport, thanks to the support of his company and the airport authorities who allow visits to various airport zones so that the youngsters can see the firemen, the falcon trainers, and aircraft. During the summer months, the activities include trips to the beach, parks, towns, and the Valencia Zoo.

"I encourage everyone to do it!

Javier is certain that being featured in "Red de Comunicación", the magazine for FCC employees, will be very positive and trusts that this will be the year when "I will no longer be alone in this beautiful and charitable project, although I must stay that being "alone" is yet another incentive and provides extra motivation since I knows I will not be abandoning the project and will make even more efforts, if possible".

Javier is a great example of what it means to be a volunteer and he wants to encourage all FCC personnel to become involved in this type of activity. Javier said that, based on his personal experience, the most important thing about being a volunteer is the comradeship and friendship of these big youngsters who always welcome him with a smile. "I am grateful", he said, for all the tenderness and love that they give me".

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See recipe book

Diversity, the salf of life

A book of ethnic recipes containing the contributions of Fligthcare Belgium employees.

Flightcare Belgium was involved in the "Diveersity, the salf of life" project, an initiative which received EU finds and which aims to achieve greater racial and cultural integration within the company. An ethnic recipe book has just been published thanks to the contribution of Flightcare Belgium employees.

This project undersocres Flightcare's interest in social integration at all organizational levels. The company's personnel includes imployees of 50 different nationalities.

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FCC consolidates its presence in the two most important international sustainability indices

It was recently announced that FCC will continue to be listed in the benchmark international sustainability and corporate responsibility indices; the Dow Jones Sustainability Index and the FTSE4Good.

Recognition of FCC by the Dow Jones Sustainability Index and by the FTSE4Good index bolsters the company's conviction on its correct implementation of CSR aspects in its corporate strategy.

The Dow Jones Sustainability Index, which includes global and regional leaders in each industrial sector based on their rating in social responsibility. Each annual review takes into account more than 300 indicators on the corporate economy, environmental and social changes, and changes in corporate governance, risk management, branding, mitigation of climate change, and compliance with labor standards and practices.

For the third consecutive year, FCC maintains its positioning in the Dow Jones index, global as well as European and within its sector: heavy construction. FCC's rating brings it closer to the global leader, the South Korean company Hyundai Engineering, which stole first place from the Spanish company Acciona.

The results of the 2010 findings, very competitive and which led to the removal of ACS from the index highlight FCC's financial performance, being the global leader in its sector in economic terms and in three of the five criteria applied: risk and crisis management, code of conduct (compliance, corruption and bribery) and non-financial project evaluation. The experts of the world's most-important stock market and business index company have given FCC top marks in two of the environmental criteria, environmental reporting and transport/logistics. FCC's social reporting, environmental management policy and systems and resource efficiency and conservation also scored very well.

The other benchmark index, the FTSE4Good, announced that FCC remains among the global companies included in this index with the best practices in terms of sustainability and social responsibility, following the assessment performed by the index in September 2010 of the companies considered within the eligible universe.

FCC's presence in these two indices imply the recognition of its commitment to sustainability and of the socially responsible policies that the Group has implemented, enhancing the stock's value as a result of the increased confidence of investors in FCC thanks to its recognition as one of the most sustainable international companies.

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Skincare tips for the winter season

Cold weather can cause serious dehydration of the skin which requires special care during the winter months to prevent the feeling of tightness, irritation, and dryness.

Winter weather conditions, such as cold and wind, make normal skin much more sensitive at this time of year mainly because of greater loss of moisture through the skin. Iolanda Prats
Caelles, professional dermatologist at the Dermatology Department of Hospital Infanta Sofía (San Sebastián de los Reyes, Madrid), talked to us about skincare and offered several tips for the winter months.

Skin moisture and age are the two key factors for having a healthy skin barrier. This function protects us from external aggressions, infections, and helps us maintain our metabolism in order.

The condition of those suffering from skin disorders, such as atopic dermatitis (eczema) or psoriasis can easily worsen and may require greater medical attention.

Topical and oral products can be used to improve the look of the skin and the signs of ageing. There is a wide variety of cosmetics containing hydroxyl acids, retinol, and vitamin C which help prevent the damage caused to the skin by the passage of time. The use of oral supplements containing antioxidant vitamins from the A, B, C, and E groups also help improve the appearance of the skin. It is also necessary to consider that this is the ideal time of the year for rejuvenating treatments such as peelings or laser.

Nevertheless, the level of skin moisture is what will determine the health of our skin during the winter months. By following some basic recommendations on skin cleanliness and care during these months, it may be possible to minimize the effects of dehydration. The man symptoms of lack of moisture in the ski are: dry and tight skin; rough skin, with a tendency to peel, the appearance of cracked skin and itchiness. The areas that are most exposed to the outdoors will be the most affected, such as the face, lips, and hands.

Minimum measures for skin cleanliness are recommended throughout the year. The skin should be cleaned twice a day, in the morning and at night, using soft cleansing solutions, rather than irritating ones to counteract the effects of cold weather. Long baths with very hot water are not recommended.

The next step is to choose a cream that contains sufficient moisture to hydrate the skin, containing mainly urea, amino acids, and epidermis lipids. Different products should be chosen depending on the area to be treated.

Generally, many products with moisturizing agents also contain some level of sun protection. For outdoor activities in the city and to prevent the harmful effects of the sun, experts recommend UV protection of between 15-20, the higher protection in case that we plan to perform outdoor activities or in the mountains, such as skiing.

If any dark spots appeared on the face during the summer months, now is the time to use a spot-removing substance added to the chosen moisturizer or one prescribed by a dermatologist if the problem is more serious.

Accordingly, the main objective at this time of year is to maintain the best physiological conditions, trying to find the right balance between the level of moisture and lipid agents in the skin. Cosmetic skincare products, consequently, can protect the skin against damaging agents in the environment.

Nevertheless, should there be any doubt; a visit to a dermatologist is recommended.

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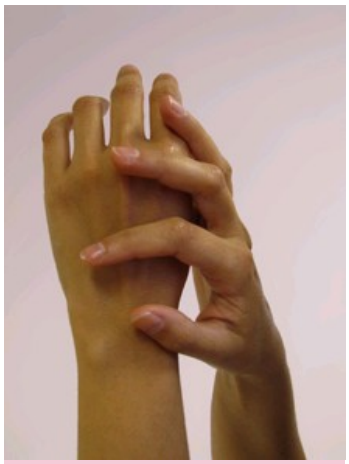

Moisturizing the skin

The application of moisturizing creams for the body, hands, specific creams for the face, and lip balsams are recommended for the health and wellness of our skin.

Besides drinking lots of liquids, it is necessary to have a good cream for moisturizing the skin that contains urea, amino acids, and skip lipids. The product should be chosen according to the part of the body to be treated:

- **Body**: wool garments should not be worn directly on the skin since it can increase irritation. The application of a solution with a time-release effect is recommended, containing between and 5% of urea. This will increase the skin's capacity to hold moisture, improving the skin and returning it to its normal condition.
- **Hands**: Gloves made of soft fabrics are recommended for protecting the hands against the cold and wind. Apply daily, more than once a day, creams or emollient containing a large amount of urea. If scaling appears, or painful cracks in the skin, a specialist should be consulted to see if there are any other types of treatment.
- **Lips**: wetting the lips often is not recommended since this can cause irritating eczemas and cracked lips. Lip balsams should be used to maintain moisture, especially before going outdoors.
- **Facial skin**: Besides moisturizing, other aspects should be considered such as sun protection the appearance of spots, or red patches. It is also recommended to avoid extreme changes in temperature, alcoholic drinks, and smoking, especially those who have highly sensitive skin since this increases skin dryness and redness.

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¿How do we desalinate sea water?

Supplying potable water to urban centers has become vital need. Spain has been a pioneer in applying desalination techniques. The lack of soft water in many coastal areas has led to the installation of desalination plants so as to provide potable water to cities and towns in traditionally dry regions such as the southeastern part of the Iberian Peninsula, the Balearic Islands and the Canary Islands.

Aqualia builds and operate several desalination plants which apply the most advanced industrial technologies in the reverse osmosis process. These plants include: the sea water stations in Cabo de Gata (Almeria); the desalination plant for surface salty water in Denia (Alicante; the La Tordera facilities, the first major desalination plant built in Cataluña which will produce 62,000 m3/day of potable water; Bajo Almanzora, as part of the AGUA Program; Santa Eulalia, Sant Antoni, and Ibiza capital in the island of Ibiza; the desalination plant in Roque Prieto(Gran Canaria); the desalination plant in Adeje Arona (Tenerife); as well as other international projects being currently executed such as the Mostaganem and Cap D'Jinet desalination facilities in Algeria, two of the largest in the African continent which will be able to supply potable water to more than one and a half million inhabitants.

The objective of these plants is to produce salt-free potable water from sea water that is apt for human consumption.

Sea water is collected from capturing wells situated a few meters from the beach, or directly from the sea through a pipe and a capturing tower which is then pumped to a deposit before being treated in the desalination plant.

Captured water has a large amount of salt that must be eliminated. To do this, the water, once it reaches the desalination plant, undergoes an exhaustive pre-treatment process that could include blending, flocculation, decanting, filtering, or micro-filtering depending on the characteristics of the water to be treated. Following this treatment, water is in optimal conditions for undergoing the reverse osmosis desalination process.

This process consists of having the water flow at a very high pressure through special synthetic polyamide membranes which reject the salt, thereby producing water from which more than 99% of the conductivity of sea water has been reduced. The produced water is stored for its subsequent re-mineralization and chlorination before being distributed to the population, complying with all legal requisites for human consumption.

Water is a product that is strictly monitored. Aqualia has a highly qualified team and has the most innovative material resources and sufficient equipment for performing all the analysis required by the Administration.

They type and periodicity of these analyses depends on the quality of the water and the flow, always complying with the legal requisites in force. There are many methods for preventing the flow of contaminated water, including the use of luminescent bacteria, and fully automated warning stations.

Water produced in these plants meet the requisites contemplated in the European Council's directive 98/83/CE on the quality of water for human consumption. These requisites were incorporated in Royal Decree 140/2003 which defines the health criteria for the quality of water destined for human consumption nationwide. The application of these new standards means that the health of the population is more protected against the possible risks stemming from water contamination, also complying fully with the obligations envisaged by the European Union.

Aqualia plays a major role as an operator of desalination plants. Its strict management, experiences, and its network of specialists ensure at all times the proper response to any problem in relation to the treatment of water.

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Reverse osmosis

High mechanical pressure forces salt water through an artificial membrane to separate it from the salt and to obtain pure water.

The huge sea water and salt water reserves in the world make it imperative to consider its treatment. Desalination has sparked great interest and many research projects on this technology have been carried out.

Desalination is a process that is used to separate salt from sea water or brackish water to make it potable or useful for other purposes. The most widespread technology at present is reverse osmosis, a natural process occurring in plants and animals. When two solutions with different concentrations, separated by a semi-permeable membrane, allow the passage of water but not of salt, this creates a natural flow of water from the less concentrated part to the more concentrated part to balance out the final concentrations. The flow of water creates a pressure known as osmotic pressure.

The process is simple. By applying very high mechanical pressure, it is possible to make salt water flow through an artificial membrane to separate it from the salt, thereby obtaining fresh water.

Desalination plants feature a water entry point, a pretreatment system, a high-pressure feeding pump, and a post-treatment involving reverse osmosis. The process is simple. By applying very high mechanical pressure, it is possible to make salt water flow through an artificial membrane to separate it from the salt, thereby obtaining fresh water.

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Last year, 34,794 tons of CO2 emissions in the air were prevented

We are responsible for our environment and for the consequences of our actions.

We take measure to identify difficult-to-measure environmental impacts

Construction, ethics, and climate change

Responsibility becomes a principle of action, a basic element of our new ethics, as expressed by Antonio Burgueño Muñoz, Director of Quality and Training at FCC Construcción.

By: Antonio Burgueño Muñoz
Director of Quality and Training at FCC Construcción

Sustainability as a principle

Ethics in our relations with the community and the environment must materialize in a series of committed conducts, coherent with responsibility. At FCC Construcción we are aware of this given our ability to alter our surroundings. The need for and the systematic consideration of environmental impacts and our potential for improving the environment, the implementation of corrective and preventive measures, and the information provided to stakeholders, cannot be considered any longer as merely a formal issue, not even just a matter of complying with legal requisites. The only possible "sustainable" approach is to assume greater responsibilities and the willingness for survival in the broadest sense of the word.

The Austrian sociologist and philosopher Schutz said that in daily life, human beings have the tendency to assume, more or less ingenuously, that once we have verified something as valid, it will remain so throughout the future and what we thought was unquestionable yesterday, will also be the same tomorrow. There is nothing more real, however, than change. Everything changes every day and our ability to adapt depends on the success in our company.

One of the greatest changes, perhaps, is the one that goes hand in hand with the ethical assumption of a new responsibility. Responsibility for an object over which we never felt responsible before: nature. Our mother. It is similar to the situation in adulthood, after our parents no longer have to take care of us, as Mother Nature has done in the past. Human beings today have reached adulthood and, accordingly, they have changed the environment, making it to their image and to their advantage. Suddenly, they find that they have to take care of their environment that, as a result of growth, has become fragile and vulnerable.

An approach based on sustainability

This is when responsibility becomes a principle of action; a basic element in our new ethics.

The ethics of responsibility does not imply the ethics of remaining quite or afraid. It is a new ethics of prevention, of prior sufficient knowledge, of being careful with regards to our actions affecting the environment.

We are responsible for our surroundings and responsible for the consequences of our actions.

We are also responsible for the consequences of our inaction. It is not immobility. It is a greater synchronization with the movements of Nature, greater knowledge of the outcome of our decisions, an analysis of the repercussions of our activity on the environment.

It implies sustainability, a global vision, and local action. An in-depth look into a universal problem. Assuming our commitment in relation to issues such as the responsible use of resources or global warming.

This is how we understand it at FCC Construcción and how we apply it in each and every project, taking new measures to identify the environmental impacts that are most

difficult to measure, such as the greenhouse gases generated by our activity, assessing these impacts and defining specific strategies and measures for controlling them.

Last year, for example, we prevented emissions to air equivalent to 34,794 tons of CO2 thanks to the initiatives implemented at work sites, such as, using materials left over from the project instead of sending it to a dumping site, neutralizing pH with Co2 in effluent treatment facilities, proper maintenance of machinery, and by controlling the speed of vehicles at work sites.

FCC Construcción's stance on climate change

FCC Construcción was one of the 15 Spanish companies that signed the Bali Declaration to promote the search of international solutions worldwide. We support, proactively, a global strategy for taking care of the planet. We could not, however, just leave it as s simple declaration of intentions. If we were firmly convinced of this, we also had to start working from within.

This is the reason why throughout 2009 we defined the master lines of the Protocol for measuring the effect of Greenhouse Gases which was finally implemented this year at FCC Construcción. The objective is to be able to assess the situation, identify improvement opportunities and, accordingly, contribute to fighting climate change by efficiently managing associated risks.

The protocol is designed following the guidelines of the internationally consolidated ISO 14064 standard, the GHG Protocol prepared by WRI and WBCSD, and the protocol for measuring CO2 in construction prepared by ENCORD, an association in which we participate actively.

The methodology established defines the limits of the organization (we selected the operational control approach); defining operating limits, identifying sources of greenhouse gases; applying a quantification methodology, and a formula for calculating Greenhouse Gas emissions as detailed below.

In the definition of operating limits, emissions are quantified, considering the following scopes: scope 1; direct emissions from installations with the operating limits of FCC Construcción; scope 2, indirect emissions associated with the energy acquired and consumed by the company; and, scope 3, other indirect emissions resulting from the company's activities, associated with acquired goods and services, subcontractors, business travel, and employees' transport from their homes to the work sites.

Within the three scopes considered, different sources of greenhouse gases were identified. There were already some methodologies for quantifying their emissions. For others, however, it was necessary to design these methodologies specifically. Others, however, are still very difficult to quantify.

Direct emissions were considered those associated with the use of fuel at work sites and permanent facilities, and the manufacturing of materials at our own facilities. Indirect own emissions include the use of electricity at worksites and permanent facilities while other indirect emissions refer to the production and transport of materials (such as concrete, agglomerate, asphalt, and earth and crushed aggregates, and clean leftover concrete), business travel and transport to and from work, and waste (the last two are currently being developed).

There are different methodologies for quantifying greenhouse gases, such as calculus based on models, activity data multiplied by emission factors, or scopes on the balance of masses; continuous and intermittent measurements, or a combination of measurements and calculus. FCC Construcción determines its greenhouse gas emissions by the calculus method, using data on activity and emission factors.

Activity data are recorded and quantified for each source identified at the different worksites and centers. Emission factors are developed based on proven experience at worksites or obtained from documented references, such as IPCC Guidelines for national Greenhouse Gas inventories, the most recent national inventory submitted to the secretariat of the Framework Convention of the United Nations on Climate Change, energy regulators (CNE, in Spain) or from calculation tools of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, all of which must be kept up-to-date. Developing emission factors is a complex process and great efforts have been made to improve the ratios and to particularize them according to the different situations at worksites, and further work on this is ongoing.

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Risks and opportunities

For FCC Construcción, climate change implies physical, regulatory, and reputational risks.

Climate change is one of the greatest threats for sustainable development and one of the main challenges affecting the global economy, health, and social welfare. For FCC Construcción, climate change involves physical, regulatory and reputational risks: material damage to constructions due to extreme meteorological phenomena, higher prices for some construction materials, greater regulatory requisites or new implemented protocols, greater demand for information, increasingly more abundant and of better quality, or the loss of image, in absolute terms or in relation to the competition due to a lack of commitment regarding a problem that tops the list of society's concerns about the environment.

Every risk, however, also provides an opportunity. Proper risk management allows us to detect and to take advantage of opportunities, such as developing new products and solutions to adapt the conditions of buildings and infrastructures to a more extreme climate and to ensure that its use is more sustainable; the reconstruction of assets damaged by meteorological phenomena, participating in defining methodologies, measurement protocols, assessment, or decision-making, contributing our experience, consolidating our positioning in the market, and enhancing our reputation. Our commitment to the fight against climate change improves how we are perceived by society; it can also generate more business by incorporating new elements and climate-related considerations in the infrastructure execution process.

To conclude, it seems that an idea should come at the end of this article, at least a final point. There is no such point however, since we are only starting. It is a long process and we have to travel that road. Anyone who has arrived already probably took the wrong road. Development is a process which releases the potential of an object or organization until it achieves its nature and complete form, its maturity. It is not a status, but rather a process. The objective is to travel this road.

Sustainable development: adding the word "sustainable" is to remind ourselves that we must be capable of reaching the end of the road (which doesn't exist) and we must continue striving.

We have begun. We are on our way…

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Members of the helicopter brigade ready to attack a fire

Watch video (spanish)

See slidde show

Fighting forest fires

Matinsa has been working on preventing and extinguishing forest fires in the eastern part of the Madrid Autonomous Community since 1998.

We visited the Southeast Regional Park, a protected area along the banks of the Jarama and Manzanares rivers in the south-eastern part of the Madrid Autonomous Community.

The landscape in this zone is full of river plains and some hills. The natural wealth of this space, however, are the plains full of cereals, cliffs, thickets, river banks and several ponds and wetlands.

At one of the most typical spots, Los Cerros de la Marañosa, 698 meters above sea level, we find Matinsa's fire-fighting land brigade, made up of 14 workers and two drivers, who work every day of the week in two 10-hour shifts during the summer campaign.

When we arrived, they were busy performing fire-prevention tasks, such as pruning, creating lines of defense and cleaning the site by removing scrubs to prevent fire from spreading, always respecting the autochthonous vegetation, which, in the case of Marañosa, includes species such as holm oaks, greenwood, rockrose, and black pine.

A bit further to the east, in Morata de Tajuña, just a few meters from the Portland Valderrivas El Alto cement plant, we find the helicopter brigade which, from May, when the weather starts to get hot, until early autumn, is involved in fire-fighting activities. The team is made up of Mario, Carlos, Alejandro, Lucho, Juan Pablo, Mario, Mari Mar, and more, up to a total of 20 people, including operators, pilots, broadcasters, mechanics, supervisors, and technicians.

The team starts to work when a surveillance station (40 scattered throughout the entire Madrid Autonomous Community) sends out a smoke alarm. At this point, the CECOP (the 112 telephone, Operations Coordination Center) announced by the shared radio channel, and Matinsa activates its action protocol.

The helicopter brigade is the first to depart. Once it arrives at the fire, the technician in charge takes over the fire-fighting tasks and defines the plan of action which will depend on the type of vegetation, terrain, weather, etc. Constantly in touch by radio, the ground brigade is notified as well as the Madrid Autonomous Community fire-fighters, on whether or not it is necessary to bring more resources, depending on the viciousness of the fire.

If necessary, the ground brigade activates all its teams and goes to the site to help in the fire-fighting tasks until the firemen take over when they arrive.

This work requires the highest level of technical professionalism. The human resources working in this brigade are members the staff at Matinsa, an FCC Group subsidiary specialized in forest fire prevention and extinguishing services. These employees are trained by the company and are highly competent in their job. It is a young team which is constantly being trained and in top physical condition.

They train every day, walking, running 40 minutes, weight-lifting, etc.

During the few hours that we spent with them, they received two fire alarms. They sometimes have to go on fire-fighting missions up to six times a day. Mario told us, however, that "When people are motivated and well-supervised, and they have the right tools, nothing can go wrong".

Experience

Since 1998, MATINSA has been involved in preventing and extinguishing fires in the eastern part of the Madrid Autonomous Community, with a team of 234 employees: eight heavy and 15 light-weight forest fire fighting vehicles; two VAMTACs (four-wheel drive vehicles); a twin-turbine helicopter, and 14 forest engineers. It has also been managing since 2003 the fire-fighting team at Madrid's Casa de Campo.

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Thorough specialized training

Matinsa offers courses on different subjects to all employees who join this department.

In order to achieve greater professionalism, Matinsa provides its employees in-depth training. All personnel who join the department must attend a 50/50 hour course on fire-fighting, procedures, action protocol, tools, PRL, etc. In addition, it provides a specific course for each job, such as RACE (Spanish auto club) courses for drivers, courses on how to use an electric saw for workers, courses on broadcasting equipment, and many more.

Physical tests

All personnel who join the fire prevention and fire-fighting team must pass very harsh physical tests. For the ground brigade, these includes running 3.2 kilometers in one-half hour, carrying 10 kilograms on their backs, with this weight increased to 4.5 kilometers in 45 minutes with 20 kilograms on their backs for the helicopter brigade.

In the summer months, operations focus on surveillance and fire-fighting. Once the summer campaign is over, the tasks performed in the winter months include making firebreaks, removing scrub, pruning, lines of defense and, in general, all fire-prevention measures.

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The waste-to-energy plant in Zistersdorf, an environmental model

One of the largest incinerators in Europe is just 60 kilometers northeast of Vienna.

Just one year after its inauguration and roll-out the Austrian waste-to-energy plant in Zistersdorf (which burns urban waste and non-hazardous industrial waste) and one of the largest incinerators in Europe, is already a waste management model in other countries.

.A.S.A., the Austrian subsidiary of FCC; the leader in comprehensive waste management and treatment, including collection, transport, elimination, landfill sites, classification, and recycling, is in charge of managing this plant.

Situated in Zistersdorf, just 60 kilometers northeast of Vienna, the plant was built on a 10-hectare plot of land owned by FCC.

It has an entrance for waste transported by rail or road. At the plant, the team performs an excellent job every day in treating this inexhaustible resource, waste. Their job is to manage the incinerator and ensure that all treatment processes function properly in order to burn solid urban waste at high temperatures to generate energy.

This energy is generated from the last fraction remaining after the waste material, which includes paper, cardboard, metal containers, glass, etc., has been properly recycled, Instead of being deposited at a landfill site, this waste is transported to the Zistersdorf plant where energy is produced by means of an end-to-end and highly monitored process.

The incinerator's treatment capacity is 130,000 metric tons of non-hazardous residential, commercial, and industrial waste. It can generate 12.8 Mw (net) of electric power, equivalent to 99.450 Mwh/year, a sufficient amount for supplying energy to a city with more than 30,000 homes.

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Good citizen services and citizens make a city.

See slide show

San Sebastian, a great example of a city

The relationship between FCC and the City Council has always been extraordinary, as expressed by Alberto Rodríguez Bardón, representative of Urban services in San Sebastian, who believes that good citizen services and citizens is what makes a city what it is.

San Sebastian, or Donosti as it is known in the Basque language, is on the coast of the Gulf of Biscay and 20 kilometers from the French border. It is a spectacular city with an impressive landscape, a combination of sea and mountain that can be appreciated even from the city's midtown district. The city can be summed up in one word: "Impressive". It is an unforgettable city and a favorite travel destination.

San Sebastian is a blend of tradition and modernity. Queen Elizabeth II of Spain chose it as a tourist destination and Queen Maria Cristina was a key figure in the consolidation of Donosti as a European tourist attraction. Famous names in politics, literature, and art have converged here. It is now the Mecca of many personalities from the world of fashion, cinema and culture.

Its Semana Grande (Major Week), the big summer feast, is part of the city's DNA, as well as its gastronomy, deservedly famous, an art and one of the city's signs of identity. A stroll through the historic district leads to the places where one can try the varied and exquisite Basque cuisine.

Its beaches are landmark sites. It has three beaches, each with its own personality: La Concha, elegant and one of the most famous beaches in Spain; Ondarreta, a total luxury, situated between Palacio Miramar and Monte Igueldo; Zurriol, the top pick for surfers, and the Isle of Santa Clara, right in the middle of the bay of La Concha which appears and disappears as the tide rises or falls. All offer great quality, sustainable, and constantly improving services.

Two other strong points are cinema and music in San Sebastian. It organizes the prestigious film festival for which Donosti is known worldwide.

San Sebastian is currently a candidate for the title of European Culture Capital 2016. Its project focuses on constant and expanded education, based on the creativeness of people and their ability to activate spaces of peaceful coexistence where dialogue is possible.

Situated in the heart of the city is the Plaza de la Constitución, with its numerous balconies dating from the Middle Ages when the square was used for celebrating bullfights. The City Council, formerly the Casino and built in 1887, and Palacio de Miramar are net to La Concha. The city is protected by its surrounding hills, Igueldo, Urgull, and Uliá.

Donosti is a live city, modern and young and constantly on the go, certainly an excellent destination thanks to its wide selection of attractions.

For FCC, it is a very valuable city. FCC Medio Ambiente has been providing daily citizen services during the last 35 years, collecting waste and cleaning the city's streets. For the last 8 years, the company has been involved in the operations, upkeep, and maintenance of waste water sanitation and water quality control at Aguas de Añarbe facilities through Aqualia, the subsidiary specializing in end-to-end water management; operations, control and maintenance of parking facilities through the subsidiary Eysa; and 15 years in charge of the installation, maintenance, upkeep and advertising exploitation of the city's urban furniture through Cemusa.

The relationship between the Company and City Hall has been extraordinary, as stated by Alberto Rodríguez Bardón, the representative of San Sebastian's Urban Services, in the meeting we had at the City Council. He believes that good citizen services and citizens is what make a city. "The collaboration of your company in the culture and in all

activities is very important", he said, adding that "FCC collaborates in citizen events, especially during Semana Grande by providing citizen services; during festivals and holidays, for example, the company uses products to eliminate bad odors in the streets and provides services that make life easier for the community". This past summer, FCC removed more than 350,000 kilograms of different types of waste products from the San Sebastian bay, waste that was scattered around two kilometers of the coast.

He added that FCC has demonstrated its interest and concern when it comes to research and has offered the city the best, saying that the advice provided by the company is always good, "it is a company that manages well and knows how to do it". "You know what citizens want". Peace is very important for San Sebastian, and "when action was needed, FCC was there", Alberto said.

"FCC and we must understand each other; it is a company generating the most economic activity within the city.

Alberto Rodríguez Bardón is fascinated with the jobs that FCC generates in the summer season, "environmental and street cleaning activities generate many summer jobs and this is what we value the most, the fact that it is the company that generates the most jobs in our city during the summer season".

"Negotiations are difficult and these gentlemen (referring to FCC) don't just give us anything in exchange, they are serious when they negotiate", he said, "Our City Council's schedule of tender conditions is very demanding, for citizens and for the company, that is what makes it valuable. Paying is everybody's obligation and acting in accordance with the schedule of specifications is the obligation of all companies".

"Another platinum broom, Mr. Councilor? This it he fifth one already, a great source of pride for all of you, right?" we asked. "Yes, but the merit belongs to the citizens, it is important for them to know that they must collaborate so that the city can win these awards, which are very appreciated", he replied.

"In the day-to-day street cleaning activity, it does not suffice to say what I did yesterday; yesterday is far away. It is necessary to plan ahead and see what we are going to do this year. When youngsters get together in public spaces to drink, citizens have to see that the city is clean once again. Public awareness is quite important".

He mentioned that FCC's management team in San Sebastian knows what machine must be used for each specific job. "The company is interested in investigating and hires professionals to address all issues. If we, as citizens, see that everything is clean, we try to keep it that way".

"The City Council is happy and satisfied and, of course, demands more and more each day. This is the commitment we have with you. If this were not so, I would not be with you today", Alberto Rodríguez said, adding "It would not be right to pretend something that the community does not agree with".

Alberto Rodríguez is proud of his city and that it has been the pioneer in many thins; "in cleanliness, we have been the first to wash the streets with non-potable water; to clean dog litter, to use side-loading waste collection trucks in Spain, and now, it would be unthinkable to use any other type in any other city. We also introduced light-weight electric vehicles".

His words accurately describe FCC's management "they are professionals and we are happy and satisfied. We take the company's advice whenever it is to the benefit of the community".

Everybody is constantly calling Alberto whenever they have problems. People are very involved and aware of all types of citizen services. "Services in this city are the same for everyone, the entire city is treated in the same way", he told us.

A city that wagers on "technology and innovation, research, with an eye on profitability. Machines cannot be idle; they must be functioning so as to be profitable".

Citizens are what make a city

We asked him how he wants San Sebastian to be known internationally, now that it is a candidate for the European Culture Capital. He replied, "As a city that is tolerant and committed to solidarity, whose citizens look towards progress and look out for each other, that is the value of this city, after the festivals and its many activities, what really counts are its citizens".

He added that behind all of this there is a lot of work. To ensure the success of the film or jazz festivals, there is work before and after that is not evident and doesn't have to be. These events stand out because of the cleanliness, and behind this, there are professionals who are constantly working behind the scenes.

Just one advice for FCC: "continue working this way and if you can improve every year, the better, but continue doing what you are doing because good citizen services are what make a city what it is".

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FCC has removed more than 350,000 kilos of waste from the bay of San Sebastian

FCC has completed the summer cleaning campaign at coastline of the bay of La Concha, collecting more than 350,000 kg. of waste scattered over more than 2 kilometers.

This service covers the beaches of La Concha, Ondarreta, Isla de Santa Clara and Zurriola. The maintenance tasks at the beaches are carried out throughout the entire year. Nevertheless, these services are increased during the summer months to improve the quality of sea water and to encourage respect for the surroundings and the sustainability of these spaces.

The service is provided along the stretch from the coastline to 0.5 miles offshore, which means that the vessels patrol and monitor the beach bathing area.

To collect floating waste and clean all the beaches in these areas, FCC uses a Marnett-type vessel which is hired from SVAT, an FCC subsidiary specializing in marketing high technology equipment specifically designed to collect floating and semi-floating waste as well as algae and medusa in the bathing areas, in addition to small spills of crude oil on the beaches and harbors. This year, FCC launched a second vessel (Zodiac), lighter and faster, to survey the coast and to remove medusas; 342 have been removed to date.

The vessel is manned by a professional skipper who, besides navigation, is in charge of controlling the mechanisms activating the collection system.

This summer and in Ondarreta beach, more than 122 tons of rocks brought inland by the tides were removed. A sifter was used to separate the rocks from the sand. The rocks were subsequently sent to the dumping site for inert materials.

In areas with greater density of population, mostly plastics, organic waste, and algae are collected. In the port areas, a huge amount of fishing material is removed, such as fishing equipment. This year, more than 11.6 tons of wood were removed, most of it deposited there after storms.

In this summer campaign, about 91.5 tons of waste in more than 180 trash bins placed along the beaches was removed, as well as over 32.55 tons of containers from the bins and recycling containers.

Three sifters and a dumper, working two 6-hour shifts every day, were used for cleaning the sand. Almost 240,000 kg. of all types of waste, from bottles to sunflower seeds were removed.

Communications system

The vessels patrol the assigned area during the entire working day, focusing on zones

where there is a larger accumulation of waste and a greater number of bathers. It is constantly in touch with the supervisors and with the coordination and control center of the corresponding entity. All teams are equipped with a voice and data communication system and GPS which enables them to know immediately the position of each of the vessels, thereby expediting the resolution of incidences.

Data management

In order to handle all data generated during the coastal water cleaning campaign, an IT tool has been designed on a data base which can be accessed on line in order to enter the information gathered in the work logs from the various vessels, This optimized management makes it possible to process and analyze information quickly and easily, and disclose the most relevant results to the public almost instantly.

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