

PRESS RELEASE
PERPIGNAN-FIGUERAS RAIL LINK

On 10 February 2005, TP FERRO, the 50/50 joint venture between EIFFAGE and ACS, assisted by IXIS CIB and BANESTO, signed a €532 million financing agreement with BANESTO, BBVA, CAJA MADRID, ING and ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND for the construction of the Perpignan-Figueras high-speed rail link: the €532 million package comprises €410 million of senior debt with a global maturity of 35 years, with a refinancing commitment from the banks for 2015.

As well as the €532 million referred to above, the project finance comprises two state subsidies totalling €540 million and equity of €100 million contributed equally by EIFFAGE and ACS. This is the first international rail concession granted in the context of a PPP based on project financing since the liberalisation of the European rail market.

The 44.5-km section will link Montpellier to Barcelona in 2009 with a mixed traffic of passengers and freight. Work has already begun. Work is underway on a pilot tunnel and tunnelling is scheduled to start this summer.