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Vinci to restore the Château de Versailles Hall of Mirrors The group becomes a Major Partner for the Ministry of Cultural Heritage

Antoine Zacharias received the Ministry of Culture Major Partner Medal from the French Minister of Culture, Jean-Jacques Aillagon, in person. Vinci is thus the first Major Partner of the Ministry of Culture.

- Vinci and the Château de Versailles have signed a sponsorship agreement to restore the Hall of Mirrors.
- The project will cost 10 million euros over five years and is the largest cultural sponsorship project ever undertaken in France.
- The project takes a novel approach to sponsoring, based on knowhow, with Vinci contributing the expertise of its specialised companies.

Vinci has agreed to manage the restoration of an exceptional element of the world's cultural heritage. The group has offered the Versailles museum authorities to finance the restoration of the Hall of Mirrors and to contribute the technical expertise of its specialised companies to the project.

The Hall of Mirrors is a masterpiece known the world over. It is emblematic of the prestige associated with the Château de Versailles, which was classified World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO. The Château de Versailles was built by Jules Hardouin-Mansart between 1678 and 1684. The Hall of Mirrors is 73 metres long and gets its name from the 357 mirrors that adorn its 17 arches. The Hall of Mirrors is the work of Charles Le Brun. The set of paintings on the vaulted ceiling is the largest of its kind in France.

This major project includes restoring painted, sculpted and architectural decorations, and renovating the heating, ventilation, lighting and fire protection equipment.

An International Scientific Committee, made up of experts in XVIIIth-century history, painting and architecture, restorers, and European museum directors, will advise the Steering Committee, which will be in charge of making scientific decisions and of selecting the companies assigned to the project. The head architect from the Department of Historical Monuments will be project manager.

Vinci will contribute to this prestigious project the skills of its subsidiaries specialised in the restoration and conservation of historical monuments and in lighting for historical landmarks.

According to the timetable for this unique partnership, preliminary studies will be carried out from January to June 2003. Work is to begin in Spring 2004 and is to be completed at the end of 2008.

Vinci has restored the Strasbourg cathedral, the fountains of the Place de la Concorde in Paris, and the statues of the Opéra Garnier's façade, also in Paris. It was in charge of the fire protection systems of the Reichstag in Berlin. With this monumental project, Vinci is now the first **Major Partner** of the French Ministry of Culture.

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