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Press release

Lioran tunnel breakthrough

On 2 June, the consortium made up of Spie Batignolles TPCI (lead company), Campenon Bernard TP (Sogea Construction) and Chantiers Modernes Rhône Alpes (GTM Construction) performed the breakthrough of the Lioran tunnel. Located in the centre of the volcano park (Auvergne) between Aurillac and Clermont Ferrand, the new tunnel lies virtually parallel to the existing road tunnel and above a railway tunnel.

The old Lioran tunnel was beginning to show its age. More than 150 years have elapsed since it was built and the with the strong growth of modern means of transport it had become obsolete and even dangerous. There was therefore a pressing need for a new tunnel. As part of these works, the old tunnel, bored between 1839 and 1846 (it is the oldest tunnel in France more than 1 kilometre long) was made into a safety escape tunnel to evacuate users in case of emergency. Four small escape tunnels connect the old tunnel with the new one for this purpose.

The works, with a value of €34.5 million excluding VAT, began in 2004 and will continue until 2007. Work includes drainage works as well as excavation, timbering and walling, waterproofing and surfacing of the 1,455 metre tunnel and the 4 connecting tunnels linking it with the existing tunnel (total length: 560 metres).

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