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PRESS RELEASE

**VINCI wins concession contract in Chile
for South America's biggest suspension bridge**

The consortium comprising VINCI Construction Grands Projets, Hochtief (Germany), American Bridge (USA), Besalco (Chile) and Tecsa (Chile), has won the concession contract for the Chiloé Bridge in Chile for a cost of €400 million. VINCI Construction Grands Projets is co-leader (with Hochtief) of the consortium, with a 27% stake. The contract covers the design, financing, construction, maintenance and operation of the bridge.

At 2,634 metres long, Chiloé Bridge will be the biggest suspension bridge in South America and one of the six biggest worldwide. Built in an extremely earthquake-prone area, the bridge will cross the Chacoa Strait to link Chiloé Island to mainland Chile.

This first double suspension bridge (two main spans suspended between three towers) represents a technical feat, which will be accomplished by VINCI Construction Grands Projets, technical leader of the project, drawing on its expertise in the design, construction and operation of major engineering structures. The Chiloé Bridge follows on the heels of a great many other showcase projects completed by VINCI in recent years. These include the Normandy Bridge in France, Severn Bridge in the UK, Confederation Bridge in Canada, River Tagus Bridge in Portugal, and the Rion–Antirion bridge, which crosses the Gulf of Corinth at Patras in Greece and was handed over in August 2004.

The Chiloé Bridge contract provides for 32 months of technical engineering – this time also being used to finalise the project's financing, followed by 65 months for construction and a 30-year operation period.

VINCI has been operating in Chile for many years, generating net sales of €64 million in 2004. In February 2004, the company signed a contract to build three prisons (Santiago, Puerto Montt and Valdivia) as part of a public-private partnership. VINCI is also present in Chile through VINCI Concessions, which operates the Chillan–Colipulli motorway, and in the roads sector through Bitumix, a Eurovia subsidiary.

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