



PRESS RELEASE

VINCI awarded the largest optical fibre cabling contract ever signed in France

TELIA International Carrier*, a subsidiary of the Scandinavian leader in telecommunications and Internet technologies, has just awarded two subsidiaries of VINCI (formerly SGE), namely SOGEA and GTIE, a contract to lay more than 1,400 kilometres of optical fibre. SOGEA and GTIE, which combined their expertise for this project, will install a high-speed ("Back Bone") telecommunications network linking Paris and Hendaye via Rouen, Caen, Rennes, Nantes, Bordeaux and Biarritz.

Valued at more than 150 million euros (1 billion French francs), this project includes the provision of infrastructure (sheaths, jointing chambers) and the cable to be laid and connected, as well as the construction of regeneration sites.

This is confirmation of the preliminary contract signed in February 2000. As of that date, SOGEA and GTIE immediately assigned more than 150 people, for a two-month period, to the preparation and drafting of the summary preliminary study and then of the detailed preliminary study for the project as a whole. These studies mainly involved determining the network layout and producing construction drawings.

This project will draw simultaneously on project management, civil engineering and telecommunications network installation skills. It will very quickly involve more than a thousand employees of the regional subsidiaries of SOGEA and GTIE positioned along the network, and co-ordinated in their work by a central unit. The work is starting now and is to be completed in less than one year.

In 1999, Vinci's net sales in telecommunications infrastructure came to approximately 380 million euros, and growth of 25% is expected by the year 2001.

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^{*} Some information about TELIA International Carrier:

Telia International Carrier, a supplier of infrastructure, of voice services and of Internet services to IP operators and agents, has offices in several cities in Europe and in the United States. The operations of Telia International Carrier are based on the Europe-wide optical fibre network called Viking, which also extends into the United States. Telia International Carrier is a subsidiary of Telia AB, the leading Scandinavian Internet and telecommunications operator. The 1999 net sales of Telia AB stood at 52,121 million Swedish crowns (approximately 7 billion euros), and it has 30,600 employees.