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PRESS RELEASE

Lefortovo road tunnel breakthrough

On 20 February 2003, VINCI Construction Grands Projets, a partner of the Russian Transstroy company, completed the boring of the Lefortovo road tunnel on the third urban ring road in Moscow.

The project lies in the eastern part of the city, some 4 km from the Kremlin, in a protected zone where cut-and-cover tunnel construction is prohibited because of the many historic landmarks and parks in the area.

The tunnel is 2,200 metres long and was driven with a 14.2 meter diameter mud pressure balanced tunnel boring machine, the largest urban TBM in the world.

Excavation took 60 weeks, with a peak advance rate of 32 rings, i.e. 64 meters, per week.

Work began in November 2001 and will be completed in September 2003.

In addition to this exceptional project, VINCI Construction Grands Projets is currently drilling the Mitholz tunnel in Switzerland, the Soumagne tunnel in Belgium, the Pannerdensch Kanaal tunnel in the Netherlands, the Airside Road tunnel at Heathrow in the United Kingdom, the A86 motorway tunnel west of Paris and the Hallandsas tunnel in Sweden. The company has the world's largest track record in underground works.

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This press release is available in French, English and German on the VINCI website:

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