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**CONCESSION CONTRACT SIGNED BY VINCI FOR  
ARTENAY-COURTENAY SECTION OF A19 MOTORWAY  
SUBMITTED TO FRENCH CONSEIL D'ETAT**

On 23 December 2004, Arcour, a VINCI company, signed the concession contract for the design, construction, financing and operation of the A19 motorway between Artenay and Courtenay in central France. The motorway is scheduled to go into service in 2009. The draft decree approving the contract was submitted to the Conseil d'Etat on 13 January 2005 by Gilles de Robien, minister for infrastructure, transport, housing, tourism and the sea.

The VINCI consortium was selected by the ministry on 14 October 2004 to negotiate this contract. Negotiations between VINCI and the French government's highways department lasted only two months and led to the signature by VINCI of the concession contract on 23 December 2004. The contract was officially submitted to the Conseil d'Etat for its opinion on 13 January 2005.

France's interdepartmental committee for regional development included the A19 in its 18 December 2003 list of priority transport infrastructure projects. The motorway will connect the Atlantic coast to the south and east of France by interlinking the A5, A6, A10 and A77 motorways. Drawing on the synergies between its Construction and Concessions divisions, VINCI was able to submit the most competitive solutions, reducing the public funding contribution to €80 million; in their joint audit report of February 2003, the Conseil Général des Ponts et Chaussées (general council for highways and civil engineering) and Inspection Générale des Finances (public finance inspectorate) estimated the public funding requirement at between €160 million and €220 million.

Arcour, the concession holder and a VINCI Concessions subsidiary, will be responsible for project financing and management under the terms of a 65-year contract.

Design and construction will be carried out by SOCALY, a consortium of VINCI subsidiaries (Eurovia, VINCI Construction Grands Projets, Sogea Construction and GTM Construction). The investment amounts to €618 million and includes building 101 km of motorway, a viaduct over the Loing and other standard road infrastructure.

The motorway will be operated by Cofiroute, a VINCI subsidiary and France's leading private motorway concession company (900 km under concession), which already operates the A10.

The official announcement is expected to be published in the *Journal Officiel* in March 2005, when the contract will come into force.

Press contact: Karima Ouadia  
Tel: +33 1 47 16 31 82/Fax: +33 1 47 16 33 88  
E-mail: [kouadia@vinci.com](mailto:kouadia@vinci.com)