



PRESS RELEASE

## **The last section of the Anatolian Motorway built by Astaldi, now opens to traffic**

*January 23, 2007* – The last 25-km section of the Anatolian Motorway, constructed by the Italian Group ASTALDI and inaugurated in the presence of the Italian Prime Minister, Mr. Romano Prodi, and the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has been officially opened to traffic. The motorway links Istanbul to Ankara and extends, through viaducts and tunnels, along a path of approximately 400 km, 110 of which have been built directly by Astaldi.

This is one of the major roads in Turkey and represents an important section of the Trans European Motorway, the motorway which, from Danzig through the Balkans, links Europe to the Middle East. Astaldi has been working in Turkey continually since 1985, and is the sole Italian leading construction company presently operating in that country. Both Italian and Turkish workers and technicians took part in the construction and, when so required by intense work phases, the personnel employed even reached a global number of 2,000 units always working in conditions of close and total collaboration.

The last 25-km section recently opened to service, constructed by using the most advanced excavation and construction techniques, represented an true challenge in terms of design and construction. In fact, this lot includes the most difficult works ever carried out, affected by the characteristics of geologically unstable grounds crossing a secondary branch of the Anatolian fault, as well as by the fact of laying in the proximity of the epicenter of the severe earthquake of 1999, which caused part of the entire layout to be re-designed.

With more than 5 km of double-way three-lane viaducts, 2.3 of which relating to one sole viaduct reaching a maximum height of 50 m, and a twin-bore tunnel with three lanes per each shaft/direction, this new motorway section will allow to reduce travel time by about 50%.

**For more details:**

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