



**BRIDGE OVER IZMIT BAY IN TURKEY,  
THE WORLD'S FOURTH-LONGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGE, IS COMPLETED.  
FIRST SECTION OF THE GEBZE-ORHANGAZI-IZMIR MOTORWAY OPENS,  
AND OPERATION ACTIVITIES BEGIN**

*Rome, 21 April 2016* – A ceremony was held in Turkey today to celebrate the completion of the Izmit Bay Bridge, the world's fourth-longest suspension bridge and part of the route of the Gebze-Orhangazi-Izmir Motorway. An initial section of 40 kilometres of motorway was opened, along the route that stretches from Gebze to Orhangazi.

The first phase of the initiative under concession for the development and subsequent operation of the Gebze-Orhangazi-Izmir Motorway has thus entered operation. Astaldi has been carrying out this important project that will halve the current travel times – today exceeding 8 hours – between the city of Gebze, near Istanbul, and Izmir on the Aegean coast.

As a whole, the project calls for building more than 400 kilometres of motorway, with 43 kilometres of motorway junctions, 33 viaducts, and 2 viaducts connecting to the suspension bridge (for a total of 39 kilometres and 1.4 million square metres of structures), 3 double-tube tunnels, 17 service and parking areas, 187 bridges, 973 minor hydraulic works, 26 intersections, 20 motorway tollbooths, 6 maintenance centres, and 17 service areas.

This is a major new success for the Astaldi Group, which has claimed third place worldwide among international Contractors active in bridge building. The inauguration also follows the recent completion, again in Turkey, of the Third Bosphorus Bridge, another example of high engineering: the world's largest suspension bridge, its towers even higher than the Eiffel Tower.

Since the 1980s, Astaldi has been a presence in Turkey, where in addition to the Third Bosphorus Bridge, it has also constructed a significant section of the Anatolian Motorway (116 kilometres between Gumusova and Gerede), the Istanbul underground (26 kilometres with 16 stations, inaugurated in August 2012), Milas-Bodrum International Airport (constructed in just 15 months and operated through October 2015), and Istanbul's Haliç Bridge. At present, the Group is engaged in completing under concession the Gebze-Orhangazi-Izmir Motorway, more than 140 kilometres of the Northern Marmara Highway, and the Etlik integrated health campus in Ankara, one of the largest healthcare complexes under construction in Europe.

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*ASTALDI GROUP is one of Italy's leading General Contractors, and among Europe's top 25 firms in the construction industry, where it also works as a sponsor of project finance initiatives. An international player for 90 years, it addresses the market by developing complex and integrated initiatives in the field of designing, building, and operating public infrastructure and large-scale civil engineering works, mainly in the areas of transport infrastructure, power plants, civil and industrial construction, facility management, plant engineering, and management of complex systems. Quoted on the stock market since 2002, it holds 85<sup>th</sup> place in Global Contractor rankings. It ended the 2015 financial year with a total order backlog, including additional orders secured and in the process of being finalized, of approximately EUR 29 billion and revenues of EUR 2.9*

*billion. It boasts approx. 11,000 employees in Italy, Europe (Poland, Romania and Russia) and Turkey, Africa (Algeria), North America (Canada and the USA), Latin America (Chile, Peru, Venezuela and Central America), the Middle East (Saudi Arabia and Qatar) and the Far East (Indonesia).*

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