



**ASTALDI, AGREEMENTS FOR US\$ 5 BILLION
IN NEW RAILWAY PROJECTS IN VENEZUELA**

Rome, 5 December 2005 – An agreement for economic, industrial, and financial cooperation in the infrastructures and development sector has been signed by Ramón Alfonso Carrizales Rengifo, Minister of Infrastructures of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and Senator Giampaolo Bettamio, Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic. Among other things, the agreement foresees within the next three months the possibility to sign a contract between IAFE (Venezuelan autonomous railway institution) and the Joint Venture of Italian companies, in which Astaldi holds a 33.33% stake, for carrying out three new railway projects for a total value of over US\$ 5 billion.

The three stretches of railway covered by the agreement are Charallave Norte-La Encrucijada, La Encrucijada-San Fernando de Apure, and Chaguaramas-Cabruta, totalling approximately 560 Km.

The agreement scheme is like that for the Puerto Cabello-La Encrucijada railway project already in an advanced phase of completion by the same Joint Venture.

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