



ASTALDI ENTERS INTO THE RENEWABLE ENERGY MARKET

Astaldi becomes partner of the project finance for the development of the largest hydroelectric power project being carried out in Chile

Rome, may 25, 2009 – Astaldi has signed the agreement to enter with a 27.3% share into the project finance Pacific Hydro Chacayes S.A., the SPV in charge of developing, constructing and operating the Chacayes power plant, in the valley of Cachapoal river, in Chile.

Astaldi had already been awarded with the EPC contract of a value of US\$ 282 million (95% as Astaldi's share) for the construction of the relating power plant. The plant will have an output capacity of 111 MW and will entail the construction of two intakes, 6 km of tunnels, 7 km of canals and a powerhouse consisting of two 55.4 MW turbines. The planned annual energy production stands at 557 GWH. The preliminary works, as scheduled, have already started in second half of 2008. The project is expected to be completed in 2011.

Upon completion, the SPV will start the operation period as the owner of perpetual water rights. 60% of the annual energy production will be sold under a long term power purchase agreement in the Chilean power market and the balance will be sold into the spot market.

The total investment value of the project finance amounts to app. US\$450 million of which approximately 50% will be financed by equity, US\$172 million has been subscribed by a pool of four international banks plus a bridge loan.

Stefano Cerri – CEO of Astaldi - commented: *"Entering the renewable energy market and expanding the concession business abroad make up just one of the drives of growth that, along with the optimizing existing markets and developing new geographical areas, will guarantee the achievement of our growth targets."*

Astaldi's partner Pacific Hydro, Australia's leading renewable energy company, is at present involved in the development of three other hydro electric projects in the Cachapoal Valley valued at more than US\$ 1 billion, which will lead to the construction of additional hydroelectric power plants. In this light, Astaldi highly values the beginning of a durable partnership with Pacific Hydro.

In order to participate into this project, Astaldi has created a special purpose company in which it is the major shareholder together with SIMEST Società Italiana per le Imprese all'Estero, the development finance institution promoting the activities of Italian business abroad.

Listed on the STAR segment of the Italian stock exchange, Astaldi Group has been active for more than 80 years, in Italy and abroad, in designing and constructing large-scale civil engineering works, mainly operating in the following areas of activity:

- *transportation infrastructure (railways, undergrounds, roads, motorways, ports, and airports);*
- *hydraulic works and power plants (dams, hydroelectric plants, water systems, oil pipelines, gas pipelines, and water treatment plants);*
- *civil and industrial construction (hospitals, universities, airports, law courts, construction works for power plants and nuclear power plants, car parks);*
- *operation under concession of works such as car parks, hospitals, urban transport infrastructure.*

The Astaldi Group is currently a General Contractor capable of promoting financial aspects and coordinating all resources and skills necessary for the optimal development and management of complex and high-value public works.

For further information:

Astaldi S.p.A

tel. 06/41766389

Alessandra Onorati

Head IR & Corporate Communications
and Investor Relations

a.onorati@astaldi.com – www.astaldi.it

PMS Corporate Communications

Tel.06/48905000

Giancarlo Frè Torelli

Andrea Lijoi