

## **Urbaser will manage the new urban waste treatment plant in Marseille, for 1,007 million euros over 20 years**

**It will provide service to one million people in 18 towns**

**The construction of the plant will require an investment of 280 million euros**

**It will be the most modern integral waste treatment plant in Europe**

**Madrid, 17 May 2005.** Urbaser, ACS Group's urban services company, has been awarded a concession to build and exploit, during a 20-year period, the future urban waste treatment plant for greater Marseille, an area comprising 18 towns and one million inhabitants.

The winning consortium is made up by Urbaser and the French engineering company Valorga, in which Urbaser has a 40% shareholding. This consortium received financial advice from Société Générale.

For Urbaser, the award of this contract in the French services market represents a strong boost for its internationalisation strategy and it is also a key milestone in respect of the future tenders for the construction and management of waste treatment plants in France, a country which is in the midst of a process of modernisation of its urban waste treatment facilities. In fact, the ACS Group service company has already submitted bids for five more waste treatment plants in France and Belgium.

The construction of the new facilities, which will cost 280 million euros, will take three years and will enable the treatment of the 600,000 tons of waste produced each year in Marseille, the second largest city in France, and its surroundings. Altogether the contract amounts to 1,007 million euros.

### **The first integral plant**

The facilities in Marseille will be the first integral plant in Europe, which from the start will perform biomethanisation and incineration functions at the same facilities, allowing the volume of waste sent to the dump to be lowered to such an extent that less than 10% of the waste received will end up at the dump.

The process of biomethanisation of biodegradable organic matter makes it possible, after a fermentation process, to generate methane gas, which in turn produces electricity. The biomethanisation and incineration lines at the Marseille plant will have the capacity to generate 35 MW of electric power. For Urbaser, this output, together with the sale of fertilisers and compost, other materials, and the royalty charged per ton of treated waste, will represent an average turnover of 50 million euros a year during the 20 years of the contract.

The facilities for the treatment of urban waste at Marseille will be the most modern and among the largest in the European Union, meeting all the recent environmental directives and with the highest degree of recovery of materials, use of energy and reduction of dump waste in Europe.

The urban waste will arrive by rail to the plant, which will occupy an area of 180,000 square metres, and in the future they may also arrive by sea, because the plant will be located in the Marseille Harbour, 40 km from the city. Rain water will be collected to be used for watering gardens and in some of the waste treatment processes. The plant, which will have its own water purifying facilities, will achieve 'zero' waste water emissions from the start.

### **Leader in Spain**

Urbaser, the leading company in Spain in the field of waste management and treatment, has built or manages 56 plants. At present, this ACS Group company manages nearly 6.8 million tons of waste per year at its plants, representing 34% of the approximately 20 million tons of waste generated every year in Spain.