

Urbaser secures the operation of a plant for the treatment of urban waste in the outskirts of Paris

It will manage the Varennes-Jarcy plant over the next 13 years

December, 12, 2005. Urbaser, a service company of ACS group, and its French affiliate, the engineering company Valorga, have been awarded the contract for the operation over the next 13 years of the plant for the treatment of Urban Solid Waste of Varennes-Jarcy, in the outskirts of Paris. The facilities, with capacity for the treatment of 100,000 tonnes of waste a year, provide services to 15 town councils near the capital of France with over 165,000 inhabitants.

During the first 18 months of the contract, Urbaser will carry out a number of changes at the plant with the purpose of improving the output and qualities. This will entail an investment of 3.8 million euros in the facilities.

The forecast revenues during the life of the concession will amount to around 80 million euros, including both the fees that will be charged for the waste treatment and the sale of compost and electric power produced from methane.

The urban and environmental services company of ACS Group began its expansion into France this year, and as a result it has been awarded a number of contracts relating to the business of treating and managing urban solid waste. First of all, in May 2005 Urbaser won the concession for the construction and operation, during 20 years, of the future plant for the treatment of urban waste from the Marseille area, which includes 18 town councils and has a million inhabitants.

The construction of the new facilities, which will cost 280 million euros, will last three years and will allow the treatment of the 600,000 tonnes of waste produced each year in Marseille, the second largest city in France, and its surroundings.

The contract represents a portfolio worth 1,007 million euros. In September 2005 Urbaser was awarded a 50 million euro contract for the design, construction and start-up of three urban waste treatment plants in the department of Valence, in the southeast of France, which will treat the urban waste of 350 town councils in the zone with a population of over 470,000 inhabitants.

The three plants to be built by Urbaser will be dedicated to the manufacture of compost fertilisers obtained from the treatment of urban waste and they will be established in the towns of Étoile-sur- Rhône, Beauregard-Baret and Saint Barthélemy-de-Vals. Together the three plants will have the capacity to treat 150,000 tonnes of waste a year.