

Dragados extends its presence in USA after the award of a contract in Puerto Rico

Madrid, 25 March 2008. Dragados, the main construction company in ACS Group, continues extending its business in the United States and it is now present in the associated state of Puerto Rico, where it took part in a public tender and was awarded the construction of a dam worth 180 million dollars in the southern part of the island.

The works, which will begin on 1 April of this year and will last until 2012, will consist of the construction of a dam on the Río Portugués, around five kilometres northeast of the town of Ponce.

The single-arch dam will be 67 metres high and 375 metres wide, and 280,223 cubic metres of compact concrete will be used in its construction.

The US Administration will pay 75 per cent of the 180 million dollars required for the works, and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment of the Puerto Rican government will pay the remaining 25 per cent.

The dam will protect around 13,000 households from the mudslides that take place every time there is an overflow of the Río Portugués. In 1985, 20 people in the area were killed as a result of the mudslide known as the "Mameyes disaster." When the works are finished, the entire urban area Ponce will no longer be an area threatened by floods.

Dragados entered the United States in 2006 when it won its first bid for the enlargement of the New York subway, specifically the East Side Access Manhattan Tunnels, consisting of the construction of a new direct subway connection between the Long Island network in Queens and the Grand Central Terminal in Manhattan, amounting to 428 million dollars. Subsequently, the Company's US affiliate, Dragados USA, was awarded a number of contracts for the modernisation and conservation of dams and highways in the state of New York.

At the end of last year, ACS Group took another stride forward in its strategy of entering into the US market by purchasing Schiavone, a US construction company specialising in civil works, with the purpose of boosting its presence in the public works market in the United States.

The company, with headquarters in New Jersey and well established in the northwest of the country, was founded in 1956 and it is considered one of the best bridge builders in the United States, though it is generally active in the field of large civil works, ranging from bridges, tunnels, underground works and highways to maritime and environmental works.