

## **ACS will design and build the SR-99 tunnel in Seattle, with an investment of USD 1.089 billion**

- **The tunnel will be 2,700 m long and it will be made using the biggest tunnel boring machine built in the world to date, with a diameter of 17.5 m**
- **In the bid that was submitted, besides the competitive price, the WSDOT took into consideration ACS' lengthy experience in the construction of tunnels using tunnel boring machines and the impeccable technical study**

### **Madrid, 12 December 2010**

ACS Group continues with its growth and strategic development process in North America, where it has been awarded a new contract, this time on the West Coast of the United States. ACS, via Dragados USA, has been chosen, along with its US partner for this project, Tutor Perini, as the best bidder by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) in the tender for the Design and Construction of the tunnel in the SR-99, which will replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct opposite the coast of Seattle. The bid is valued at USD 1.089 billion.

The tunnel, measuring 2,700 m, will be made using the largest tunnel boring machine built in the world up to the present date, with a diameter of 17.5 m (57.5 ft.). This diameter will allow traffic to move both ways, and each way will be at a different level.

The contract includes the works allowing access to the tunnel, as well as all the systems required for the safe flow of traffic—ventilation, surveillance, lighting and fire protection systems, among others.

The tunnel crosses a heavily populated area, therefore great importance is attached to preventive measures to mitigate sinkage and to ensure the permanent surveillance of all the movements of earth during the construction.

In the bid that was submitted, besides the competitive price, the WSDOT took into consideration ACS' lengthy experience in the construction of tunnels using tunnel boring machines and the impeccable technical study, which allowed it to choose it as the best bid because it was the proposal that contributed the greatest value.

The project will enable the removal of the Alaskan Way Viaduct that currently circulates opposite the coast along Elliot Bay in Seattle, which was affected by an earthquake in 2001. The replacement, besides allowing the removal of damaged infrastructures, will provide a significant change to the appearance of the city and it will improve traffic in this main thoroughfare in the city of Seattle.

### **The growth and strategic development of ACS in USA**

Dragados is becoming consolidated within ACS Group as the parent company in the Construction Division, and it has been present in the civil works business in the US

since 2005, when it was awarded its first enlargement of the New York Subway, a big engineering project to join Grand Central Station in Manhattan with the district of Queens going below the Hudson River, worth over USD 400 million. Subsequently Dragados secured new commissions in north-eastern US for the improvement of roads and dams, as well as the construction of a dam in Puerto Rico and its first contract for the enlargement of Miami Airport. In January 2006 it acquired 100% of Schiavone, a company specialising in construction in north-eastern US, and in January 2009 it acquired 100% of John P. Picone, a construction company established in New York State, and 100% of Pulice, the largest contractor in Arizona.

Now, with the design and construction of the SR-99 tunnel in Seattle, Dragados embarks on a new challenge on the west coast, confirming the strategic presence and development of ACS in the United States.