

## **The ACS Group is chosen for the development of a new infrastructures concession in Ireland**

**Dragados Concesiones de Infraestructuras is the provisional concessionaire of the project providing for the financing, construction and operation of the N25 Waterford By-Pass Toll Motorway, in the southeast of the country**

**The pre-award project, valued at 360 million Euros, involves the collection of direct tolls for the next 30 years**

The bid submitted by Dragados Concesiones de Infraestructuras, an ACS Group company, and its partners has been selected by the Irish Transportation Authorities as the “preferred bidder” for the project that provides for the financing, construction and operation of the N25 Waterford By-Pass toll road. The selection as “preferred bidder” is one step prior to the definitive award.

This project, which will require an investment of 360 million Euros, will become the second concession of the ACS Group in Ireland once it is definitively awarded by the National Road Authority (NRA), an entity dependent upon the Irish Ministry of Transportation, to the group formed by Dragados Concesiones de Infraestructuras (DCI), NTR and Ascon early next year.

The N25 Waterford By-Pass project includes the financing, design, construction and operation under a concession regime for 30 years of this new infrastructure in southeast Ireland, which is part of the important corridor that links Dublin and Cork, as well as rights to toll collection. The traffic forecast at the start of operations in the year 2009 will be over 10,000 vehicles per day.

The undertaking of the N25 Waterford By-Pass will require the construction of 23 kilometres of a new motorway with two lanes in each direction and 14 kilometres of new roads with a single lane in each direction. The project is part of the PPP program (Public Private Partnership) for the improvement of Irish roads included in the Irish NDP (National Development Plan) which envisages significant development of infrastructures in the country in forthcoming years through the participation of the private initiative.

In fact, as part of this plan Dragados Concesiones de Infraestructuras is already pre-classified to bid for two other toll motorways in other parts of the country, representing an investment of over 750 million Euros.

Last September ACS opened traffic to the Dundalk Western Bypass toll motorway, its first concession in Ireland and the first in fact to be inaugurated in that country, five months ahead of schedule. This infrastructure will be operated by Dragados Concesiones de Infraestructuras for the next 30 years. This concession was awarded to the ACS Group and its partners at the start of 2004.

The ACS Group is the leading developer of infrastructure concessions worldwide, with more than 40 concessions of roads, tunnels and motorways; five airport concessions that include 16 airports; two railway and one Metro concession. NTR is an Irish

operator that operates in the motorway as well as the energy, waste and water sectors, while Ascon is an Irish construction company.

**January 2, 2006**