



November 3, 2016

## D4R7'S GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

*On Monday, 24th October 2016, D4R7 Bratislava Groundbreaking ceremony- a kickoff event celebrating the official launch of Bratislava Bypass construction works, took place in Samorin, Slovakia. Key representatives of Slovak government, together with Arpad Ersek, the Minister of Transport, Construction and Regional Development in the Slovak republic, joined the event. Members of the Embassy of Spain in the Slovak republic and representatives of Bank sector also participated.*

This event symbolizes the beginning of the construction Works for the Bratislava ring road, consisting of stretches of the **D4** motorway and the **R7** dual expressway, which is a long awaited infrastructure project to release the heavy traffic situation in the local area.

The official stone tapping ceremony to mark the beginning of construction on the project was performed after a number of speeches including those delivered by Mr Ersek, Minister of Transport, Construction and Regional development in the Slovak Republic, Mr Bugár, Deputy Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, Jaime Lamela, CEO Zero Bypass Ltd, the Cintra consortium.

On behalf of Ferrovial Agroman, the event was attended by Ignacio Clopes, International Area 2 (Europe Asia Australia) Director, Enrique Nieto, Director of Highways UK, Ireland & Slovakia and the project's management including General Manager of the site, Juan Jose Bregel.

The official ceremony was started with opening speeches of the Transport Minister commenting the project stating: "This road will be one that, not only here but also in the surrounding area, will help people who spend almost four hours a day in cars wondering what to do next; whether to move away from here or remain".

**Bela Bugar**, Deputy Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, also highlighted the importance of this construction project for the local area, Slovakia, and of course, for the government itself- as the Bratislava Bypass, with its total value of the concession, makes the **D4R7** one of the largest PPP projects in Europe in 2016.

**Jaime Lamela**, Head of *Zero Bypass Limited*, highlighted that "the flawless transparency of the Slovak Government during the tender convinced the best infrastructures developers of the world and the financial community who bet on its financing". And added "This is a time for **Ferrovial Agroman** and **Porr** to prove their expertise as world leaders engineering companies. Time for the engineers to work together, Slovak, Spanish, Austrian/ no matter where they come from".



**Alžbeta Ozvaldova**, the Mayor of Poddunajske Biskupice, closed official speeches with positive message all municipalities are aware of positive impact **of the project** on the entire area and they hope the project can be delivered according to planned schedule, to avoid more disruption than needed. The ceremonial tapping closed the official part of the ceremony, with all speakers tapping the stone at once, in a gesture of the team work realized until know. Moreover, a special commemorative plaques and golden commemorative hammers were handed over, as a sign of future cooperation.

The new 27 km section of the **D4** motorway, located on the strategic trans-European transport network, will establish connections to the **R7** expressway and the existing D1 and D2 motorways.

Funding for the project was secured in May 2016 and since then there has been close collaboration between the engineers, designers, archaeologists and the ministry to ensure the best solutions are reached and value engineering is fully achieved.

The new road infrastructure will provide increased transport capacity to the Slovak Capital and the neighboring region, improving connectivity locally and internationally with enhanced safety and more reliable journey times.

