

2 NFM TECHNOLOGIES TUNNEL BORING MACHINES TO EXCAVATE UNDER THE GUADALQUIVIR RIVER

Lyon, 12 April 2010: NFM Technologies has just signed 2 contracts for two 14m diameter earth pressure balance (EPB) tunnel boring machines as part of a new ring road project, the SE-40, in Seville, Spain. This new 78 km long road around the city will require a 2,180 m long tunnel to be built under the Guadalquivir river.

These contracts were signed with 2 Spanish groups – OHL/SANDO/AZVI and COPISA/ALDESA/BRUESA – for the company Sociedad Estatal de Infraestructuras del Transporte Terrestre (SEITT). They provide for the design, manufacture and on site assembly/dismantling of the TBMs, as well as assistance during the operational phase. Manufacture of the TBMs will mainly be carried out at NFM's Le Creusot plants in France and is scheduled to finish in February 2011.

The TBMs will each dig two 1,900 m long tubes under the Guadalquivir river, in terrain principally composed of sand, gravel and marl. To satisfy these geological conditions, the machines will be designed to withstand a pressure of 5 bars and make hyperbaric interventions easier. They will comprise 4 independent injection systems - Bentonite, limestone load, foam and polymer. These injection systems, which have already been successfully tested by NFM Technologies, will ensure better control of earth pressure under the river.

The construction of this new ring road aims to reduce traffic on the existing ring road in order to provide better infrastructure for the whole metropolitan area of Seville and its 1.43 million inhabitants, and to optimise the regional and national road network. This ambitious project – for which almost 450 million Euros will be supplied by the SEITT – is in line with the country's infrastructure development plan, backed by the European Community.