

SOTIELLO tunnel: New record for NFM Technologies

Lyon, 20/10/2009. The NFM Technologies “Via Carisa” tunnelling machine working on the high speed railway line between Madrid and Gijon in Spain has set a new progress record*, having bored through 1,140 metres in a single month.

The previous record for this type of machine was also held by NFM Technologies. The “La Adelantada” machine, which was supplied in 1996 for the Madrid subway system, excavated 1,012 metres in a month.

The new performance was achieved as part of the Pajares – Sotiello project (lot 5 of the Pajares project). The NFM hard rock tunnelling machine with a diameter of 9.90m made its breakthrough last September, having bored through 5,900m of tunnel in less than eight months. The clients, FCC and ACCIONA, were happy with the excellent progress achieved by the machine in spite of difficult geological conditions and the presence of pockets of methane.

This machine was adapted for the Sotiello tunnel once it had excavated 10,400m for lot 1 of the Pajares tunnel. Of all of the tunnelling machines used for this first lot, the NFM Technologies machine had already proved itself to be efficient and robust by being the first to finish its excavation work.