



Press release

Uruguay: Ferrocarril Central

Inauguration of the Ferrocarril Central, the record-breaking rail line of NGE in Uruguay

Montevideo, April 16, 2024 – In Uruguay, a 264-kilometre rail line now connects the city of Paso de los Toros to the capital Montevideo. This railway, Ferrocarril Central, is the largest infrastructure project ever completed in the country's history. For NGE, France fourth largest construction company, selected in 2019 for the financing, design, construction and maintenance, this achievement showcase its expertise on major projects and thus marks a major milestone in the development of its international portfolio.

The inauguration of the Ferrocarril Central takes place this Tuesday April 16, in the presence of Luis Lacalle Pou, President of the Republic of Uruguay, Jose Luis Falero, Minister of Transport and Public works, and Juan José Olaizola, Undersecretary.

The commissioning of the Ferrocarril Central is a major milestone in the development of a multimodal transport system in Uruguay. This infrastructure projects will not only improve accessibility and connectivity between the regions, but also bolster trade, regional integration and economic activity across the territory. In total, 4 million tonnes of good will be transported each year.

A comprehensive presence across the entire value chain of the project.

The project was launched in 2019 by the Uruguayan Ministry of Transport and Public works. NGE, through its subsidiary NGE Concessions, has an upstream involvement in the project and secured 1.2 billion dollars with first-rate financial partners coming from the United States of America, Japan, Italy, Germany and Uruguay (Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, Corporación Andina de Fomento "CAF" and its CAF-Asset Management fund, as well as Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Intesa Sanpaolo S.P.A, Allianz GI, and finally Global Infrastructure Partners).

This amount is the greatest ever mobilized by NGE, in consortium with SACYR Concesiones (Spain), SACEEM and Berkes (Uruguay), which led to secure the financing of the project since October 2019, only six months after the signature of the contract with the Ministry of Transports of Uruguay.

The works were also carried out by NGE, in consortium with SACYR and two Uruguayan companies SACEEM and BERKES. The consortium carried out the following works:

- earthworks,
- sanitation,
- civil engineering,



- networks,
- rail systems,
- rail signalling.

More than 3,500 employees worked on the project at peak. The Group was also awarded a 21-year-contract for the maintenance of the track.

An increasing presence on international major projects

This first public-private partnership is a first for the Group on two levels: first infrastructure financing project outside of France and first infrastructure financing project in the rail industry. This achievement illustrates the Group's ability to act as a single point of contact for major international project stakeholders.

With this new flagship reference, NGE demonstrates its ability to achieve innovative financial structuring within tight deadlines involving multilateral institutions, commercial banks, and leading international institutional investors. This expertise is crucial for the implementation of the Group's commercial strategy, which aims to double its revenue outside of France between 2024 and 2028. Operating in 17 countries across Europe, Africa, South America, North America, and the Middle East, Ferrocarril Central is part of NGE's long-term development strategy in Latin America.

"The commissioning of the Ferrocarril Central is a major source of pride for NGE, which rolled out a comprehensive and integrated approach of infrastructure financing, design, construction and, in the future, of maintenance. This unique position in the consortium, what sets us apart within our industry, was crucial to deliver the Ferrocarril Central, record-breaking project. It is just the beginning of our Uruguayan history. What a start!" Jean Bernadet, CEO NGE.

"Our teams led a bold, innovative, and optimised financing operation, which enable to reduce cost for our client. This success was made possible by the close collaboration with SACYR, SACEEM and BERKES and, by the trust of our financial institutions partners to deliver a major infrastructure for the country, with a win-win efficient partnership. Participating in the return of the rail in South America through this project is definitely a source of pride for us!" Thierry Bodard, President of NGE Concessions.

This project is in line with the UN 2030 sustainable development programme, ticking the box of the decent work and economic growth (8), industry, innovation and infrastructure (9), sustainable consumption and production (12) and, partnerships to reach objectives (17) criteria.



More information

Key numbers

- **264 km** of track between Paso de los Toros and Montevideo
- **37 500 tonnes of rails**, 18m-long each
- **6** semi-covered trenches
- **30 road bridges**
- **150 rail bridges**
- **250 level crossings**
- **21 ans** of maintenance
- More than **3,500 employees** at peak

An innovative financing solution

- International financing involving multi-lateral institutions, commercial banks and, Uruguayan and international institutional investors.
- Multi-trench, multi-instrument and multi-currency financing structure – in dollar and pesos – specifically crafted for the project
- Use of several innovative financing solutions:
 - Participation of Uruguayan pension funds to finance the pesos facility through the debt fund managed by CAF Asset Management
 - Securing a “mezzanine” loan through BID Invest and Global Infrastructure Partners
 - Bond financing – private placement – with BID Invest and Allianz Global Investors: major bond financing of BID Invest in its history

This financing model received two IJGlobal awards in 2019 and 2022.

Financing key numbers:

- 1.2 billion dollars invested by local and international financing institutions and shareholders
- 125 million dollars of equity (of which 34 million dollars for NGE)
- 75 million dollars of fixed debt mezzanine rate
- 305 million dollars under an A/B loan structure provided by BID and covered by an interest rate swap
- 346 million of dollars at fixed rate in local currency with CAFAM, financed by Uruguayan pension funds
- 85 million of dollars floating rate financed by CAF, multilateral financing institution
- 315 million of dollars financed by BID and Allianz through bond emission



About NGE – www.nge.fr/en/

As the 4th largest construction group in France, NGE – New Generations of Entrepreneurs – specializes in the construction of major infrastructure as well as urban and local projects. With expertise in financing, design, construction, and maintenance, the Group has become a key player in delivering infrastructures that address the economic and ecological challenges of the territories. Its entrepreneurial momentum is supported by a strong employee ownership structure (founders, management, and employees hold 72% of the Group's capital), reinforced by Montefiore Investment, a leading French investment firm (28% of the capital).

Press contact:

Léonore Mascarell – TADDEO

leonore.mascarell@taddeo.fr

+33 (0) 6 88 72 96 17