



Operation of the Athens ring road: a French expertise for the Olympic Games

From 1999, **Transroute International** transferred in Greece the French expertise in the field of operation of toll motorways.

Transroute International, a subsidiary of **Egis Projects**, operates the Athens ring road, the Attiki Odos motorway, through its operation company **Attikes Diadromes**;

In 2001, **Transroute International** incorporated the operation company **Attikes Diadromes** in partnership with the main Greek construction companies: Aktor/Elleniki Technodomiki/TEV, Attikat, J & P Hellas/Avax/Eteth and Pantechniki/Sarandopoulos.

Attikes Diadromes gathers more than 800 people. The expected turnover for 2004 is estimated to be about €38 m.

The Athens ring road – Attiki Odos

This 2x3 lane and 67 km long ring road serves all the urban area of Athens from East to West and more particularly links the new international airport with the city centre.

The infrastructure includes the 181 km access roads to the motorway as well as the motorway itself (142 road bridges, 37 rail bridges, 15 pedestrian walkways, 30 tunnels). The financing of this project exceeds €3 billion. 25% of its financing comes from private equity.

The various sections have been put into operation between April 2001 and June 2004 before the opening of the Olympic Games, despite initial delays due in particular to prior archaeological excavations and environmental requirements (16 km tunnels or cut and cover motorway sections).

A client call centre with 50 people, opened 12 hours/day, 6 days/week, manages 70 000 subscribers to freeflow tolling. The traffic on the ring road is approximately 250 000 vehicles/day with daily peaks of 330 000 vehicles. Everyday, 50 000 clients use the freeflow tolling system.

The Athenians are the first beneficiaries of the Attiki Odos. It takes now less than 30 minutes instead of 1h1/2 (situation still unbelievable at the beginning of the year 2003) to cover the distance between the Elefterios Venizelos airport and the entry of the Corinth motorway.

The French expertise for the Olympic Games organisation

The Athens ring road links many Olympic sites. This is a key factor in the system set up by the Olympic Committee for transportation. The motorway is the link between the Olympic riding centre of Markopoulo and the Olympic stadium in the north of the town. This sports centre will host the major events in athletics, swimming and cycling. Westwards, around Elefsina, the events of judo and wrestling will be accessible by the Attiki Odos motorway (gymnasium of Ano Liossia).

The Greek company **Attikes Diadromes** sets up particular measures in order to ensure the safety and reliability of trips during the games period: dedicated freeflow tolling lanes, distribution of 8 000 tags for the vehicles of the Olympic car fleet (athletes, official delegations), doubling of aid patrols, multi-lingual aid people in toll plazas,...

A French experience which could be profitable to the city of Paris for its application for the organisation of the Olympic games in 2012 !

***EGIS Projects**, which consolidated turnover reached €61 m in 2003, is an active actor in the development and management of large projects. Egis Projects is a promoter, investor, designer and operator in partnership with financial investors and construction companies. This subsidiary of Groupe Egis has also developed an expertise as integrator of complex fixed operating equipment systems: toll, freeflow tolling, traffic management, information to drivers, security systems (in particular for tunnels).*

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