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**PRESS RELEASE**

**A 63 Highway concession in southwest France**

**Atlandes, a consortium led by Colas Sud-Ouest comprised of two Colas subsidiaries (Colas Sud-Ouest, Screg Sud-Ouest), Spie batignolles, NGE, Egis Projects, HSBC European Motorway Investments 1 and DIF Infrastructure II, was selected by the French Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and the Sea as the preferred concession operator for Highway A 63 between the towns of Salles and Saint-Geours-de-Maremne in southwest France.**

The 40-year concession contract will cover the design, finance, build and operations of a 105-km section of Highway A 63 between the towns of Salles and Saint-Geours-de-Maremne. The work involves the upgrading and widening of former Route RN 10 to a 6-lane roadway compliant with current Environmental and Highway standards to ensure better safety and customer service.

The 1.1-billion euro project includes the initial payment of 400-million euro entry fee (in return for availability of existing infrastructure for a duration of 40 years). The concession contract is scheduled for signature at the end of December 2010.

The construction consortium, led by Colas Sud-Ouest and which also comprises Screg Sud-Ouest, Valérian, a Spie batignolles company and NGE, will be in charge of performing the work, slated to begin in September 2011 once the design phase has been completed. The contract value for the construction grouping will be roughly 500 million euros (Colas 40%, Valérian 30% and NGE 30%). The concession will be operated and maintained by a dedicated subsidiary of Egis Road Operation and should be fully opened to toll traffic by July 2014.

*For further information:*

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