



# International Road Federation

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## Road Development Projects Worldwide Recognized Through IRF Awards Program

(Washington, D.C.)—Transportation projects and organizations from Qatar to the United States were recognized for excellence and innovation by the International Road Federation's (IRF) "Global Road Achievement Awards." The awards will be presented at various events throughout 2004.

The awards were given in eight categories that recognize outstanding achievement in design, innovative finance, advocacy, construction methodology, safety, technology, equipment and manufacturing, environmental mitigation, and research.

The 2004 winners include:

### ***Design:* Parsons International Limited for the Doha Expressway Project in Qatar**

The extraordinary growth in recent years in Qatar has led to the need for the expansion and modernization of Qatar's strategic highway network, including the Doha Expressway, Doha's first urban freeway. The new freeway will be an expansion and an upgrade of existing urban roads. The design of the freeway posed challenges to the engineers as they had to ensure not only environmental acceptance, but community acceptance as well. The engineers succeeded in designing a freeway that can safely carry high volumes of traffic for relatively long, uninterrupted distances at high speeds. It included the following design features: 50 km of fully access-controlled, divided freeway with up to four lanes in each direction, 19 grade-separated interchanges, two utility bridges, roadway lighting and barriers, storm water drainage facilities and intelligent transportation systems. The design proposal was accepted by Qatar's Emir in 2003 and construction is scheduled to begin this year.

### ***Innovative Finance:* Parsons Brinckerhoff and Macquarie Infrastructure Group for California State Route (SR) 125 South Toll Road Project**

Development of the State Route (SR) 125 toll road near San Diego faced hurdles from environmental mitigation to financial constraints. But, eleven years after the project was first conceived as a public-private initiative, the conception is now becoming reality. Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB), working with the project's financial advisor, Solomon Smith Barney (now Citigroup), led the effort to prepare a successful Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan application. Egis Projects, Koch Materials and the Fluor Corporation joined PB on the project, while the public sponsors consisted of the State of California, City of Chula Vista and the San Diego Association of Governments. SR 125 is one of the first U.S. highway projects advanced as a privately financed road under a concession agreement with a state department of transportation. Construction began in September 2003 and is scheduled to be completed in 2006.

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**Advocacy: American Road & Transportation Builders Association's "Transportation Makes America Work!" Campaign**

The multi-year authorization for the United States federal surface transportation programs, enacted in 1998 by Congress and President Clinton under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21), expired in 2003. The authorization provides federal funds to maintain and improve highways, bridges and transit systems. In October 2002, the ARTBA Board of Directors authorized the launch of the "Transportation Makes America Work!" (TMAW) Campaign to help build support for a robust TEA-21 reauthorization bill. The campaign included print and radio ads, coalition building, empirical research and development of lobbying support programs and materials. By the end of 2003, ARTBA's TMAW Campaign was credited with helping establish near universal agreement among lawmakers, the Bush Administration and the nation's governors on the need for significant new levels of highway and transportation investment.

**Construction Methodology: Colas France for Reflex FG**

To improve safety on wet road surfaces, Colas France developed Reflex FG, a non-porous and very thin asphaltic concrete that helped reduce incidences of tire skidding at low and high speeds. It also helped reduce noise on highly traveled corridors. With the approval of the French Roads Directorate, Reflex FG was successfully tested and used at five construction sites on high traffic roads.

**Safety: Quixote's Highway Information Systems, Inc. for the IntelliZone Hydroplane Detection/Alter System for Work Zones**

A dangerous hydroplane situation existed at a bridge replacement work zone on I-85 near Charlotte, North Carolina. The bridge project resulted in eight lanes, four in each direction, of temporary pavement being put down to detour traffic around the work zone. After the temporary lanes opened, over 50 incidents had been reported, many of which were attributed to water on the roadway during heavy rains. In response, Highway Information Systems, Inc., installed IntelliZone to provide advance notice to motorists in real time about traffic conditions ahead. The system's roadside computer collects data automatically on road conditions, makes decisions about what messages to display to motorists and automatically updates the portable message signs to reflect traffic conditions ahead. During the seven-month deployment of the IntelliZone System, no incidents due to hydroplane conditions were reported.

**Technology, Equipment and Manufacturing: Troxler Electronic Laboratories for Construction Materials Testing**

Using innovation, industry expertise and product development, Troxler Electronic Laboratories has brought a collection of products to the market, which has enabled the industry to continually improve the quality and speed of materials testing in order to build better roads. Troxler field gauges are used to test and measure for density, compaction and moisture content of soils, aggregate and pavement to ensure compliance to quality standards. They include the PaveTracker™ pavement uniformity device, which uses electromagnetic sensing to determine density of asphalt pavement and the Troxler RoadReader™ Plus Model 3451, which measures the density of materials by counting the number of gamma photons and converting that to a density reading.

***Environmental Mitigation: Spanish Road Association for the A-381 Highway***

The A-381 Dual Carriageway constitutes a basic road system for connecting the Campo de Gibraltar with the rest of Andalusia, Spain. The road system serves as a crossroads between the European and African continents for both travelers and goods. The construction of the dual carriageway posed a major environmental challenge because it ran directly through the Los Alcornocales Natural Park, a protected area containing the richest ecology and landscape in Andalusia, with unique plant and animal life. To mitigate any environmental impacts, the project team successfully built an underpass to protect wildlife, recycled construction materials and applied specific landscape designs.

***Research: Colas/Somaro for Fractal Noise Barrier***

The team of Colas/Somaro used geometric principles to develop a fractal noise barrier. The highly absorbent noise barriers, when applied near expressways, highways and entrances to tunnels with heavy traffic have been 30 to 50 percent greater in reducing noise than that of the most effective sound panels currently available on the market.

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Founded in 1948, IRF is a non-governmental not-for-profit organization, with public and private sector members in 72 countries, whose mission is to promote the development and maintenance of better, safer roads and road networks throughout the world. IRF promotes international transportation infrastructure development through its offices in Washington, D.C., and Geneva, Switzerland. Information about the IRF can be accessed at [www.irfnet.org](http://www.irfnet.org).

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