Work of art

The Nijmegen bridge, 'De Oversteek', in the east of the Netherlands, which was built by a joint venture that included BAM Civiel, has won the 2014 National Steel Prize in the Infrastructure category. According to the jury, it is a landmark, work of art, symbol, and a place for people to meet. It is the result of integrated design and construction based on an innovative tendering method. The bridge was designed by the architect and engineering joint venture of Laurent Ney and Chris Poulissen. With a length of 285 metres and an arch 60 metres high, it is the largest single-arch bridge in Europe. The arch has been designed to match the width of the river.

Back in Shape!

BAM is making progress on the programme to get back in shape. Rob van Wingerden, the new CEO of Royal BAM Group: ‘Our goal is to increase our profitability and to deliver a better return to our shareholders. In order to do this, we need to concentrate on four areas: better project control, lowering our cost base by at least €100 million, improving our working capital and simplifying our organisational structure. The structure of BAM is complicated because of our history of acquisitions and takeovers. We need to simplify and unify our organisation. In the Netherlands we are merging the existing twelve operating companies into two companies. One will operate in construction and property and the other in civil engineering. In Belgium the current six BAM companies will be merged into one company known as BAM Belgium. Unfortunately, this will involve reducing the number of support roles, mostly in the Netherlands. I recognise that this is hard for those who will be leaving BAM and for those of us who have to say goodbye to valued colleagues. But I assure you that they are very necessary decisions. We must focus on the fact that we will still have thousands of great people with excellent skills and expertise in delivering prestigious projects large and small. Between now and the end of 2015 we must all work hard together on the back in shape programme, so that we deliver the right results. I am confident we will succeed and become a strong, world-class company.’

Rob van Wingerden.

Complex Concrete

The port area of Antwerp, Belgium, will be treated to a real spectacle at the end of the year, when the steel superstructure of the Havenhuis designed by Zaha Hadid is hoisted into position on the Interbuild construction site. The six modules, the heaviest of which weighs around 350 tons, will be transported by water from the factory of steel manufacturers Victor Buyck, before being positioned under the heavy crawler crane. Until then, Interbuild will be busy with the task of building the concrete construction that will bear the superstructure. The forward-leaning front base – poured on-site in white, self-compacting concrete, and temporarily supported by steel girders – is now largely invisible thanks to an enormous support construction on which the concrete bridge is being built.

Jo Verstraelen, contracts manager of Interbuild: ‘We are dealing with very difficult shapes. The entire project has therefore been set out in a three-dimensional model. Without BIM, it would be impossible.’
Netherlands

Back to the future

In Valkenburg aan de Geul, BAM Utiliteitsbouw is taking a big step back in time. Two medieval city gates are being rebuilt using materials from the past and building techniques of today. The former towers, built in marl, and its ruined castle are a huge tourist attraction in the hills southern part of the Netherlands.

‘The tops of the towers have been developed in 3D and arrived here as a building package’, explains project manager, Bjorn Schapskram (left on the photo). ‘A line that was left of the Geulpoort gate was the foundation, and only the lower part of the Geulpoort gate, so we used historic prints to make a design.’

When the Geulpoort is ready later this year, the public will have access to a twenty-meter high viewing platform via a spiral staircase, offering outstanding views of the city and the Geuldal valley. ‘A unique project’, says site agent Math van Wijhe (right). ‘You only get to build two medieval gates in your lifetime.’

Belgium

Large-scale railway renewal

As part of a joint venture, BAM Rail mobilised an army of employees and materials to renew ten kilometres of railway track near Utrecht Central Station. Around four hundred people worked in three shifts around the clock for nine days. The work was performed on the station’s north side. For the overhead wires, the project team laid new vegetation in place, so up to forty metres long.

The work was part of a larger project for rail operator ProRail. The tracks on both sides of the station are being completely overhauled to make the tracks suitable for high-frequency train services. This is being done by diverting the through traffic via the station, for which around two-thirds of the points are to be removed.

The project is not due to be ready by late 2016.

United Kingdom

World Wide Safety Day

21 October on Worldwide Safety Day, all colleagues in BAM gave extra focus on safety issues. Employees in BAM Construct UK were asked to take photographs of perfect, safe work practices to share these. This one, taken on 21 October on a project to build a school in East Ham, London shows the right way to cut materials.

ProRail. The yards on both sides of the station are being completely overhauled to make as many points are to be removed.

The work area is clear and tidy and there are no other colleagues or tasks in the way. BAM Nuttall set up an exercise that resembled a real life incident involving multi emergency response agencies. The exercise was a truly educational moment for those who attended. Site manager Robert Lewis said: ‘The emergency scenario allowed all parties to develop their skills and highlighted things that are not possible to see when planning it. Paper allowed everyone to work as one team and showed the benefits of doing so.’

Big shopping

BAM Rail is leading the way in installing almost 6.5 kilometres of rail on the Borders Railway, using machinery previously employed on the High Speed Rail Link in the Netherlands. The Scottish Government-funded project, carried out by BAM Nuttall and BAM Rail, will re-establish passenger services between Edinburgh through Midlothian to Tweedbank in the Scottish Borders.

Transport Minister opens motorway

Fast track laying!

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Transport Minister Keith Brown, and Mark Carne, chief executive of Network Rail, tested the newly-constrced Shavflar station to officially launch this important phase of the track-laying programme. ‘It is a continuous process’, says project manager Niek Lentink. ‘With a state-of-the-art rail installation machine – capable of laying 1.3 kilometres of track per day – it takes about half an hour to lay two rails with a length of 108 metres. The machine will employ 300 people and use 3,000,000 litres of water to lay rails. The machine lays out along the route and link up specialist sections of track, that have already been installed at key locations.’

Motorway A9 completed

The Federal Motorway A9 is connecting Berlin and Munich via Leipzig and Nuremberg. The extension to six lanes over a length of nineteen kilometres was realised in the last section of the road extension project of this major trans-European transport axis. The extension to six lanes over a length of nineteen kilometres was realised in the last section of the road extension project of this major trans-European transport axis. The extension to six lanes over a length of nineteen kilometres was realised in the last section of the road extension project of this major trans-European transport axis.

Germany

Going underground

A 26-metre deep elliptical shaft forms the heart of the tunnel construction work currently being undertaken by Wayss & Freytag Ingenieurbau in a new joint venture in the center of Stuttgart. ‘A new station is being built underground and is at right angles to the current station. A network of tunnels is being built for the adjoining tracks’, explains project manager Thomas Mühle.

The joint venture is responsible for one of the sub-projects: the construction of two single-track tunnels for the high-speed link between Stuttgart and Ulm, between the new station and Bad Cannstatt, with a total length of more than six kilometres. A two kilometres long railway tunnel is also being built for the S-Bahn, in a ventilation shaft and an escape shaft.

The project has a value of some 825 million, of which 680 million is for W&F Ingenieurbau. www.bam-in squeezed-stuttgart-ldm.com

England

Groundbreaking

Henk Kamp, the Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs, together with the Dutch ambassador James de Mol and others, has officially launched the building of the second phase of the A34 project in Abi Chahine. In addition to the recently completed football stadium, BAM International is erecting six residential buildings, a 10,000m² office, a hotel with 172 rooms, a car park, and the necessary infrastructure.

For left: Mayor of Abi Chahine (project manager BAM International), Jonathan Miller (consultant, EC Harris), Jan van Betuw (financial controller, BAM International), Minister Henk Kamp, Jonathan Mullan (consultant, EC Harris), and Pierre Yves Lonneux, project manager at Galère. The project has a value of some 825 million, of which 680 million is for W&F Ingenieurbau. www.bam-in squeezed-stuttgart-ldm.com

Belgium

Pure water from Ans

Pure water from Ans

Germany

Bam Protection, a subsidiary of BAM Nuttall, has recently received the prestigious ‘Gold Award’ from the Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI) scheme for its 2014 social responsibility activities. The scheme, run by BITCI, is an international measurement system that allows companies to benchmark sustainability and business citizenship progress.

In Ans, Galerie – together with Archeos and Department – is one of the key players in providing clean drinking water for the Large region. ‘We are building a three-storey purification plant. With a capacity of 25 million litres of water per day, it will be one of the largest purification plants in Europe. The purification process will take place on the two lower floors, which will be a control room and water center, including a lift addition with 75 seats. We are also erecting a storage hall and pumping building’, explains Pierre Yves Lonneux, project manager at Galerie.

The project, with a value of 67 million, of which 61 million will be earned by Galerie, will be completed in October next year.

United Kingdom

Motorway A9 completed

The Federal Motorway A9 is connecting Berlin and Munich via Leipzig and Nuremberg. Federal Transport Minister Alexander Dobrindt (left) and others have officially opened the section to offi cially launch the A9 project. With a total length of more than six kilometres, the motorway A9 is the second stage of the A9 project in Abu Dhabi. In addition to the recently completed football stadium, BAM International is erecting six residential buildings, a 10,000m² office, a hotel with 172 rooms, a car park, and the necessary infrastructure.

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World

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By infinity to a great smile. Transport Minister Mihret Schuck Scholzen has officially opened the doubled U32 metro between Ansen and Zuidzirkel, in the north-east of the Netherlands. The doubling was completed in only sixteen months, meaning that it has been finished almost one year ahead of schedule. The project was delivered by the Port van Noord consortium consisting of BAM PPP and PIGCM. During the coming twenty years, Port van Noord will remain responsible for the management and maintenance of the N33 between Ansen and Zuidzirkel.

The work was part of a larger project for rail operator ProRail. The tracks on both sides of the station are being completely overhauled to make the tracks suitable for high-frequency train services. This is being done by diverting the through traffic via the station, for which around two-thirds of the points are to be removed.

The project is not due to be ready by late 2016.

Motorway A9 completed

The Federal Motorway A9 is connecting Berlin and Munich via Leipzig and Nuremberg. Federal Transport Minister Alexander Dobrindt (left) and others have officially opened the last section of the road extension project of this major trans-European transport axis. The extension to six lanes over a length of nineteen kilometres was realised in the last section of the road extension project of this major trans-European transport axis. The extension to six lanes over a length of nineteen kilometres was realised in the last section of the road extension project of this major trans-European transport axis. The extension to six lanes over a length of nineteen kilometres was realised in the last section of the road extension project of this major trans-European transport axis.
BAM Civil successfully lifted in a new structural steel bridge for Iarnród Éireann over the Dublin to Sligo railway line and the Royal Canal between Cabra and Finglas as part of the Ratoath Road Realignment and Overbridge Project. The bridge weighed 320 tonnes and was raised into place with a 1,200 tonne capacity strut jib crane, one of the largest cranes mobilised in Ireland for such an operation. 45 trucks transported the crane parts from Belgium and a team of six erected the crane over five days. The bridge installation crew, which included twenty operatives and engineering staff, managed the complex operation safely and effectively, while a crowd of over hundred people witnessed the historic bridge installation.

The truss arch bridge was engineered using tubular sections for the arches and beams sections to support the deck and was assembled off-line locally before installation. It has a total length of seventy metres and is fifteen metres in width and spans the whole of the busy Dublin to Maynooth-Sligo Railway line, the Royal Canal and the canal towpath. When complete, it will accommodate the realigned Ratoath Road between Cabra and Ballyboggan Road in Finglas, enabling the closure of the manned level crossing over the railway line at Reilly’s canal bridge and providing relief to peak traffic queues either side of the bridge.

BAM Contractors recently held their Annual Charity Cycle Challenge in the Rebel County of Cork, Ireland. The brave 140 kilometre group set out from the Little Island office into Cork City then to Bandon, on to Clonakilty and out the coast road to Timoleague. From there they went to Kilbrittain, Ballinspittle and then on to the picturesque Kinsale to join the 50 kilometre group. They then went on to Carrigaline across the Passage West Ferry to meet up with the 20 kilometre group for the final stretch from Cobh to Little Island. For the non-cyclists a Rebel Ramble was organised which involved a train ride from Little Island to Kent Station to sample Cork City by foot.

Speaking at the event, managing director Theo Cullinane, congratulated all the participants and organisers and said that BAM was delighted to support such a well deserving and crucial service offered by the hard working team at Penny Dinners. The BAM Charity Committee presented a cheque for €5,000 to Penny Dinners. Penny Dinners is one of Cork’s oldest caring organisations and was founded as a soup kitchen. At present they serve a 1,000 meals per week to anyone who calls to their centre.

Irish Minister of State for Disability, Older People, Equality & Mental Health, Kathleen Lynch T.D., turned the sod on the Mercer Institute for Successful Ageing, a €40 million purpose-built centre of excellence for the health care of older people which is being delivered by BAM Contractors. The seven storey state-of-the-art facility, located on the campus of St James’s Hospital, Dublin will provide a centralised facility for the Institute’s clinical, education and training, research and creative life work with older people. The 15,000 m² facility will include innovative early diagnostic and rapid access ambulatory care clinics, in-patient acute assessment, rehabilitation and a continuing care unit with 76 en-suite bedrooms and further ward spaces to accommodate a total of hundred beds. The building will also include research facilities, consultation spaces, meeting spaces, catering facilities, day areas, roof terrace spaces, a courtyard and naturally lit foyer and conference rooms. Managing director Theo Cullinane: ‘BAM is delighted to commence construction on the Mercer Institute for Successful Ageing. We are proud to be involved in another significant project that will benefit Ireland’s healthcare system and we have an expert team in place to ensure that we deliver a state-of-the-art facility.’ The project will be completed by late 2015.

Sod turning at Mercer Institute

Minister Kathleen Lynch T.D. and Theo Cullinane at the sod turning ceremony.