

## CASE STUDY

# SAFETY CABLE IN THE SPANISH VIELHA TUNNEL

The advantages of cabling solutions from Datwyler are well known in the Spanish market. Functional integrity cabling systems, for instance, enhance preventive fire safety in many strategic infrastructure projects. One example is the new Juan Carlos I Tunnel in Vielha.

Vielha Tunnel in Catalonia is one of the most important traffic links between Spain and France, and to the relatively isolated Vall d'Aran (Aran Valley). In December 2007, after only five years of construction, Juan Carlos I Tunnel was opened. It is 5,230 metres long and runs parallel to the old tunnel, which is now used only as an emergency exit and for transporting hazardous materials. The new tunnel is equipped with the latest technology and modern safety systems.

The contract for the west section of the tunnel was awarded to the OHL Group, one of Spain's oldest construction, franchise, and service companies. The company has built all kinds of tunnels for many years, amongst them more than 60 with a length of over 100 kilometres. As an experienced and professional enterprise, OHL uses only reliable, high-quality materials.

### Datwyler solution was first choice

The functional integrity cabling solution from Datwyler was chosen for the tunnel cabling. A decisive factor was that this system meets all requirements of DIN 4102-12, including extended functional integrity in case of fire. This is an important aspect of any security system, especially in buildings and structures with high occupancy loads.

Over 80 kilometres of halogen-free Pyrofil safety cable is installed in the new Vielha Tunnel. With 30 to 60 minutes of extended functional integrity, the Datwyler system guarantees reliable supply to the safety systems, including emergency lighting, surveillance, smoke alarm, fire alarm, and signalling systems.

"We are very satisfied with the performance of Datwyler. Competitive pricing and on-time delivery confirmed that our choice was correct", says OHL project manager José Manuel Moreno. "Based on our favourable experience, we are working together with the distributor Urkunde and with Datwyler also on other important projects, like electrical cabling for San Pedro Tunnel on the Madrid-Segovia-Valladolid high-

speed rail line and Santa Isabel Tunnel built for Expo 2008 in Saragossa, and fibre optic cabling at Málaga Airport."

### Close partnership with the distributor

"The Spanish market has great development potential. It demands competitive prices and pinpoint delivery, as well as high-quality, reliable products. The Datwyler solution meets these requirements in every regard", says Aitor Garate, Sales Manager at Urkunde, distributor of Datwyler in Spain. "Positive feedback from our customers encourages us to continue on this path together. The experience of a pioneer and leading manufacturer of integrated safety cabling solutions is a central success factor here. We plan to expand our partnership to include new projects and other areas like communications networks and building automation systems."

In the future Datwyler and Urkunde will also collaborate to sharpen awareness within the responsible institutions and amongst the Spanish public that high safety standards are necessary everywhere human lives and valuable goods must be protected.

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