



Press release

Avignon, 25 July 2005

Lafarge Couverture has entrusted GSE with the construction of a new production unit

Lafarge Couverture has requested GSE to construct their new clay tile production factory at Limoux, in the Aude area. This project is situated on a plot of 15 hectares, with an area of construction of 27 700 m² and external storage area of 75 000 m².

The laying of the first stone to mark the opening of this site took place on Monday 25 July.

This construction also calls upon all aspects of GSE's expertise, in particular the management of the interface between the construction and the process equipment, with the civil engineering associated with processing (kiln, dryer, crushing, clay storage etc.). Certain areas of the building are to be made available for processing equipment installation before final handover, which is planned for June 2006.

This global approach to the project has enabled Lafarge Couverture to reduce the operational deadline considerably, with production equipment testing due to commence at the start of the summer of 2006.

The architect selected for this project is Crossman at Limoux (in the Aude area).

Technical description:

- ❖ Metal frame construction with double layer cladding and watertight steel tray roofing.
- ❖ Construction of building platform of excavated material and infill with soil and cement.
- ❖ Civil engineering and slab associated with the processing equipment (paving, deep foundation, silos, ditches, drainage channels etc.).
- ❖ Special foundations (compacted columns)
- ❖ Technical work packages for building and processing equipment such as the electrics (medium / low voltage transformer), gas, water and compressed air
- ❖ Associated secondary trades
- ❖ Large exterior storage surface areas and arterial roads of sand asphalt
- ❖ Treatment of storm water via petrol separators and storm basin with leak flow



Surface area table

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Production unit and crushing zone / clay storage | 25 100 m ² |
| Offices and social areas..... | 1 250 m ² |
| Plant rooms and workshop | 200 m ² |
| Canopies..... | 600 m ² |
| Site head building | 150 m ² |
| Resale building | 400 m ² |
| Total | 27 700 m² |

Construction previously carried out by GSE for the Lafarge group

This construction is not the first of its kind, since a professional relationship has existed between the two groups for over 15 years. GSE has in fact delivered over 110 000 m² of constructed surface area to Lafarge:

- seven powder and plaster board production units have been constructed for Lafarge Plâtres in France; the first one in 1989 at Saint-Loubès (in the Gironde area), and thereafter in Germany (at Lubbenau and Lippendorf), in Poland (Gacki) and in China (Shanghai).
- in 2002 GSE also constructed two buildings for the world technology centre of the Lafarge group specialising in research into construction materials: 4 900 m² of laboratories and 800 m² of office space. The site was designed to house various branches of the Lafarge group.

NOTE TO EDITORS

The GSE Group is specialised in the Turnkey delivery of buildings in the industrial, logistics and tertiary sectors. Established in 1976, GSE has become the reference point for the Turnkey Contracting industry due to our policy of taking charge of the project in its entirety (search for investor, choice of site, technical study, design and build). GSE's services are based on a firm commitment in terms of deadline, price and quality, whilst maintaining the capacity to listen to our Client and his requirements. With a turnover of 430 million Euros in 2004, GSE goes from strength to strength; projects outside France represent 50% of all orders taken by the GSE Group.

Over a 30 years period, GSE has constructed more than 10 million m² for clients such as Auchan, Alcatel, Asda, Coca Cola, Danone, Lafarge Plâtres, L'Oréal, Michelin, Novartis, Schneider, Renault, Lyreco, Volkswagen, Wal*Mart and Thomson.

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