

Implementation of the Emergency Plan of Castroviejo Dam

La Rioja Government becomes a trailblazer by setting up an acoustic warning system in record time

Madrid, 28 September 2006.- GMV, in collaboration with the Technology and Knowledge Agency of La Rioja Government and JPM Ingenieros, have now completed the project for setting up the emergency and population-warning system of Castroviejo dam on the River Yalde near Logroño.

The setting up of an Emergency Plan is now an obligatory requisite for running any dam. La Rioja Government, however, working through the Regional Ministry of Public Works and the Hydraulic Works Service, has become a trailblazer in this field by setting up an acoustic warning system in record time. In the event of any emergency, such as a dam breakage or floods, the people living in the river-valley villages can now receive immediate warning of the danger and be quickly evacuated from the area.

The system comprises a control center communicating with various sites downstream of the dam where warning sirens have been fitted. The control center monitors the state of the dam in real time with 30 sensors gauging the pressure conditions and water levels.

The system ensures communication with the public bodies involved in emergency management. The various elements of the system are connected up by the VHF radio network of SOS Rioja with two failsafe systems made up by GPRS and GSM networks to cover any overload.

The system also meets the objective of providing swift communication with the population living in the floodable area. The sirens are perfectly audible from any point of the valley. To guarantee proper working they can be activated either automatically from the control center or manually. In the event of any emergency, therefore, the population can now be immediately warned and take the measures laid down in the alerting protocol.

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