**Press Release 17 November 2023**

**Zigana Tunnel named the most successful project of the year**

**Cengiz İnşaat's Zigana Tunnel, Türkiye’s and Europe’s longest double-tube highway tunnel built by a team led entirely by Turkish engineers, won the International Road Federation (IRF) award for the most successful project of the year in the “Construction Methodology” category.**

The Zigana Tunnel Project, completed by Cengiz İnşaat under a contract with the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Directorate General of Highways (DGH), has been awarded the most successful project of the year in the “Construction Methodology” category by the International Road Federation (IRF) based in the United States. The award ceremony, held in Phoenix, USA, was attended by executives from the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, and DGH. The award was received by Emrah Uslu, Head of DGH Department of Road Construction, Mehmet Aşık, DGH Trabzon Regional Director for Highways, and Tarık Eyüboğlu, Project Manager of Cengiz İnşaat.

**EUROPE’S LONGEST DOUBLE-TUBE HIGHWAY TUNNEL**

Built by Cengiz İnşaat with a team led entirely by Turkish engineers, Zigana Tunnel holds the title of the longest double-tube highway tunnel in Türkiye and Europe. The tunnel consists of double-tube tunnels each 14.5 kilometers long, reaching a total length of 15.1 kilometers when added the approach roads. Another striking aspect of the project setting an extraordinary example of advanced engineering technologies is the physical quantities used in it. The concrete used for the project adds up to a quantity that would have been enough to build 1,850 units of 4-storey homes for about 70,000 people, while the quantity of iron and steel is large enough to build 6 Eiffel Towers. The project that involved approx. 3.2 million cubic meters of tunnel excavation works in total distinguishes itself from other highway tunnels with the alternative ways for reuse of excavated materials and specially designed ventilation systems.

The “Vertical Ventilation Shafts” and “Air Exchange Stations”, which were designed against all kinds of adversities and critical scenarios that could have been potentially encountered in the tunnel, were constructed with special construction techniques used for the first time in highway tunnels in Türkiye and Europe. The 3.6-meter diameter shaft excavations were carried out with a Raise Boring Machine (RBM) according to the Raise Boring method, while Glass Reinforced Polyester (GRP) pipes were used to cover and support the inner surfaces of the excavated shafts. The air exchange stations with vertical ventilation shafts enable not only the discharge of foul air from inside the tunnel but also the intake of oxygen-rich fresh air from the outside environment into the tunnel. Located within the borders of Trabzon and Gümüşhane as an important artery in the international road network connecting the Black Sea coastal road to Aşkale/Erzurum via Trabzon-Maçka-Torul-Gümüşhane-Kale-Bayburt, Zigana Tunnel was built on the historical Silk Road route connecting the Eastern Black Sea region to the Middle East, Caucasus and Iran. The tunnel built with a particular focus on high-security measures brings solution to the problems that used to be faced on the route, especially in winter, and provides drivers with a more comfortable and economical transportation opportunity.

Zigana Tunnel tubes are arranged in four sections, 85 meters long each, illuminated with blue light. Thus, it is aimed to prevent the lack of attention drivers may experience while driving through the tunnel.

***Photo (left to right): Cengiz İnşaat Project Manager Tarık Eyüboğlu, DGH Trabzon Regional Director for Highways Mehmet Aşık, Head of DGH Department of Road Construction Emrah Uslu, IRF President & CEO C. Patrick Sankey***