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## **Lafarge inaugurates an ultra modern cement plant in Tetouan, Morocco**

The Lafarge group opened a brand new, ultra modern cement plant in Tetouan, Morocco on 28 May 2004. With a production capacity of one million tonnes, the new plant was designed to meet fast-growing demand in Morocco's northern provinces. Altogether, the group invested 120 million euros in the new plant.

The industrial performances of the new plant are comparable to the best cement plants in the world, notably in terms of energy consumption and product quality. In addition to energy savings generated by the choice of production methods, 40% of the plant's electricity needs will be supplied by renewable energy generated by a local windfarm. Wind power will replace electricity produced by thermal power plants, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions. **This is a world premiere.** Environmental protection efforts accounted for 15% of the total investment in the new plant.

To meet the growing needs of the Moroccan market, Lafarge will continue to make the necessary investments in production capacity in the years ahead to safeguard its leading position in the country. The group also announced that it is investing 80 million euros in the construction of a new 900,000 tonne production line at the Bouskoura cement plant near Casablanca. The new Tetouan plant was also designed to accommodate a second production line as soon as more capacity is needed to meet market demand.

*"Together with the increase of capacity in Bouskoura, the successful start of our new cement plant in Tetouan will enable us to pursue our development in this fast-growing market with very good returns and excellent environmental performance. These investments are perfectly consistent with Lafarge's long-term business strategy, particularly directed towards growing markets",* said Bernard Kasriel, CEO of Lafarge.

### Notes to the Editors:

1. Lafarge Maroc, a 50% subsidiary of Lafarge held in partnership with SNI (Société Nationale d'Investissement), has 4 cement plants in Bouskoura, Tangiers, Meknes and Tetouan, and a total capacity of 4.2 million tonnes, before the increase in capacity of the Bouskoura plant. In 2003, Lafarge Ciments Maroc posted sales of 275.3 million euros and a consolidated income of 106.5 million euros, increasing by 12.5% and 18.5% respectively, compared with 2002.
2. Overall, in 2003, the Cement division of the Lafarge Group posted a 46% share of its sales and a 42% share of its operating income in developing countries.
3. Lafarge, the world leader in building materials, holds top-ranking positions in all four of its Divisions: Cement, Aggregates & Concrete, Roofing and Gypsum. Lafarge employs 75,000 people in 75 countries and posted sales of €13.6 billion and operating income of €1.9 billion in 2003. Additional information is available on the web site at [www.lafarge.com](http://www.lafarge.com).

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