



Hydropower boost for sleepy Spanish region

The San Esteban II hydropower project nears completion in northwest Spain. Contractor Ossa gives this snapshot report of tunnelling conditions on site

Inland Galicia, an autonomous 'nationality' in northwest Spain is dependent on the agricultural industry for its economy. In Ourense, one of more densely populated provinces in the sleepily growing nationality, work has begun to upgrade the 57 year old San Esteban Hydropower Plant.

A new 176MW Francis turbine generator will supplement the four 66MW Francis turbines that have been installed on site since 1955 and generating power since 1956. Works are nearly complete, with a 8,754mm Voith-Siemens rotor installed in the turbine shaft on 2 May.

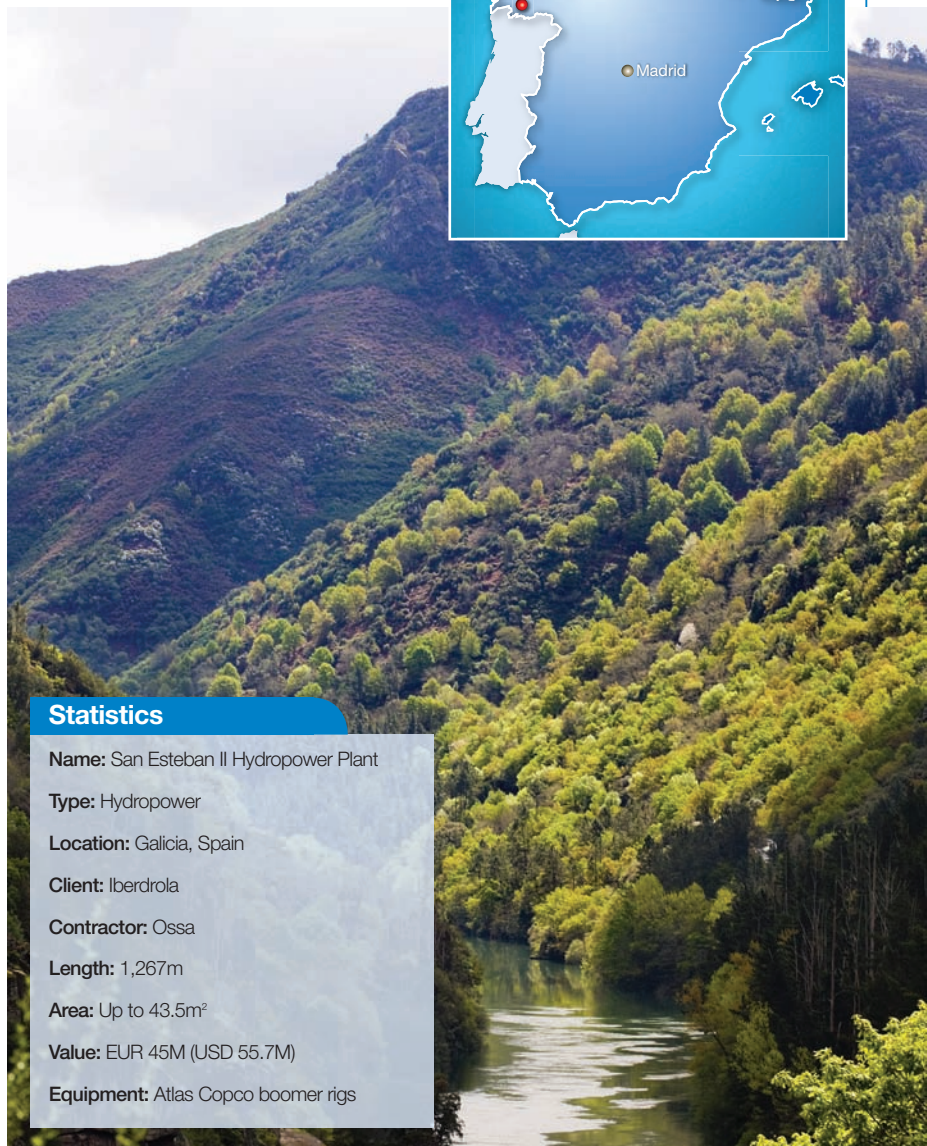
The plant is scheduled to be operational from the end of November.

The plan

The San Esteban II Hydropower Project aims to increase the power capacity of this head by constructing a new underground plant, located within the rock mass supporting the left side of the dam.

The plant operator, Spain-based privately owned multinational electric utility company, Iberdrola, contracted Ossa, a sixty year old Spanish contractor that originally focused on mine construction, to undertake tunnelling works.

The value of the works is approximately EUR 45M and the starting date for



Statistics

Name: San Esteban II Hydropower Plant

Type: Hydropower

Location: Galicia, Spain

Client: Iberdrola

Contractor: Ossa

Length: 1,267m

Area: Up to 43.5m²

Value: EUR 45M (USD 55.7M)

Equipment: Atlas Copco boomer rigs