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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **VINCI to launch Advitam**

VINCI Innovation, the VINCI group investment fund, has decided to support Advitam, a company offering innovative solutions for improving understanding of processes occurring in structures, with the aim of thus increasing their useful life. An offshoot of Freyssinet, the world's leading specialised civil engineering operator, Advitam has developed a range of tools enabling visual monitoring of structures, and listening to their insides to understand the stresses and strains present there.

These tools include, ScanPrint® (a patented technology for structure management, inspection, maintenance and diagnosis assistance), SoundPrint® (a patented technology allowing continuous surveillance of engineering structures: remote acoustic surveillance, acoustic, video and vibration analysis of cables and structures), Upus® (allowing for ultra-sound measurement of loads in pre-stressed bars), SlotStress® (measuring stress in concrete) and Tensiomag® (measuring the tensile stress in steel cable).

These techniques have already been used on a large number of structures around the world - cable-stayed bridges, suspension bridges, pre-stressed bridges, pipelines, high-rise tower blocks, car parks, containment structures, reservoir.

"The click working for mortar"

Advitam's ambition is to support engineering structures with these new technologies. The very nature of its business - structure diagnostics - led its instigators to take it outside the Freyssinet group so as to facilitate its business development. Advitam has set itself the target of growing on international markets, in Europe, Asia and North America in particular, and wherever there are ageing or undersized structures requiring preventive reinforcement.

VINCI will organise a presentation of these activities on the occasion of the Advitam launch on 22 November 2000 at 4pm at the group head office (1, cours Ferdinand de Lesseps, 92500 Rueil-Malmaison).

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