

Press Release

Casais Group project receives Spanish sustainability award

- **The B&B Hotel Tres Cantos in Madrid, has won a sustainability and refurbishment award in the Re Think Hotel competition.**
- **This is the first timber-hybrid construction building in Spain, built by Casais Spain and ACR using the CREE Buildings system and focusing on sustainability.**

Braga, 24 January 2024 - The B&B Hotel Tres Cantos, built by a Casais Spain and ACR joint venture project, and coordinated by Sunny Casais, which is giving impetus to a new generation of sustainable buildings in Spain, has been awarded a prize in the Re Think Hotel competition, in the "10 best sustainability and hotel refurbishment projects in progress" category. This 120-room project by TdB Architects, headed architect Fernando Herrero, is one of two hotels in Madrid in the offing for this partnership.

The Re Think Hotel awards ceremony took place yesterday at the Ministry for Tourism in Madrid. This is the sixth hotel built by the Casais Group for B&B Hotels, the first having been the Hotel B&B Guimarães, which was the hotel chain's 700th hotel and therefore something of a milestone. The B&B Tres Cantos is the first in Spain to use timber-hybrid construction system developed by CREE Buildings.

This system is an industrialized solution featuring with a prefabricated structure and façades that allow for easy assembly and disassembly. The B&B Tres Cantos is a five-storey building in which the bathrooms and part of the plumbing network and installations are also prefabricated in Portugal, by Blufab and Blumep, both Casais Group companies. TopBIM, a Group company, provides international architectural and engineering consultancy services for the construction industry. It managed several phases of this project, including the coordination of the prefabrication drawings, and helped produce the 4D planning, which will play a key role in aligning the construction and assembling in all the phases of the works.

"We see this award as market recognition of what we believe is the future of the sector. Our client, B&B Hotels, thinks so too, and has made an investment in two hotels based on this industrialised

system that brings principles of sustainability to the fore. We increasingly feel that we are part of an ecosystem of forward-thinking partners who are taking principled action now—in the present—to create a society and communities that are more sustainable. We believe that the process of applying a sustainable focus to the sector as a whole is a long way off, but the successful completion of this type of project shows us that we are making progress towards the goal of a green transition in construction," says António Carlos Rodrigues, CEO of Casais Group, the project's construction company.

Compared to traditional construction methods, the timber-hybrid system used to build the new B&B Tres Cantos hotel resulted in a 60% reduction in the carbon footprint, and enabled a 60% reduction in waste, a 50% reduction in local noise pollution and has the potential to increase energy efficiency by 10%. With hotel's 120 rooms offer a number of different accommodation options.

The Casais Group has shown its investment in leading the move towards sustainability in the sector, as well as internationalization. One example is its introduction of a new type of construction to Spain that is more environmentally sustainable and faster, which means that construction time is reduced. Aside from all these advantages, this type of industrialised solution makes it possible to avoid later demolition, because large individual component can be reused in other buildings. There are significant gains to be made, therefore, by saving time, money and resources.

The Portuguese construction company, which operates in 17 countries, is focused on industrialised and off-site solutions, and methods that aim to increase efficiency and speed up production in an integrated way. Casais Group is constantly reaffirming its commitment to innovation and technology and exploring the key performance indicators of buildings, as well as their cost throughout the life cycle, as it aims to accelerate the go-green transition in construction and contribute to sustainability achievements within the sector.

Recently, the Group unveiled other projects in Portugal where the timber-hybrid construction system was implemented, such as the Minho Innovation and Technology Hub, which represents a new starting point: the know-how acquired and methodologies used in this project provide a firm foundation for expansion of these sustainable practices into future projects.

About Casais Group

Incorporated on 23 May 1958, **Casais** is today one of the five largest companies in the construction sector in Portugal. Currently, the Group operates in 17 countries: Portugal, Angola, Belgium, Brazil, France, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, UAE (Dubai and Abu Dhabi), USA (Texas), United Kingdom, but it has also operated in the past in Algeria, Cabo Verde, China, Kazakhstan, and Russia.

The Company has invested in sustainable construction through the development of various timber-hybrid construction projects using the CREE system and implementing industrialised (off-site) solutions. **Well Built for Well Living** is the Group's brand positioning and commitment, as it focuses on innovation, sustainability, development and technology.

The Group has received various awards. It has won the Construir Award for Best Structure in Portugal five years in a row, and is ranked 3rd as the Best Place to Work. The Group's 2023 consolidated turnover exceeded EUR 712 million, with international markets accounting for EUR 342 million of that figure.

About Sunny Casais

Sunny Casais is a partnership between Casais, one of the largest Portuguese engineering and construction groups with 65 years' experience, and Sunny, a real estate investor with projects in Miami, Spain and Portugal. Since the start of the partnership, the two companies have already developed and built several hotels in Portugal (Oeiras, Montijo, Vila Nova de Gaia, Guimarães and Olhão) and this first one in Spain, in Tres Cantos, Madrid, with construction of another one in Spain already planned to commence in 2024.

About B&B Hotels

B&B Hotels is one of Europe's largest limited-service hotel groups. Founded in Brest in 1990, the group has a network of more than 750 hotels in 15 countries. B&B Hotels has experienced exponential growth in recent years and intends to continue expanding in 2024. The company is committed to offering comfort and quality, seeking to provide the best value for money, as it is positioned in the "value for money" segment. The company is strongly committed to Corporate Social Responsibility, with the aim of developing initiatives that have a positive social and environmental impact. The group currently has a sustainability certification from SOTEC, an independent certifying body.



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