

**Press Release
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Tensar Smoothes Fans' Road to Euro 2012

Tensartech TW1 structural and retaining walls are being installed in a new raised dual carriageway to bypass the historic city of Wroclaw in South East Poland. The road will give access to the new Miejski Stadium in time for its role in the UEFA Euro 2012 football finals.

Wroclaw Municipality and its main contractor, Skanska, chose the Tensar solution for the 5km bypass project because of its low material costs and rapid construction, as well as its aesthetic appearance and versatility in adapting to site requirements.

Traffic conditions within Wroclaw are frequently very congested due to the narrow streets of the historic centre. It can take two hours or more to transverse the city, located on a major connecting route across Southern Poland.



Tensar's Tensartech retaining wall solution has helped build this elevated Polish ringroad for Euro 2012, utilising reinforced soil technology comprising uniaxial geogrid layered within aggregate (see inset)

Started in 2008, the new bypass route is elevated on embankments up to 11 metres high in order to cross the River Oder, the railway and local roads; this will carry through traffic and football fans away from the city centre. A total of 19 separate Tensar *tech* walls were built for the embankment, with 10 incorporated into bridge abutments and flyovers; construction will be completed in 2011.

"Three different techniques were considered for the project," commented Jacek Kawalec of Tensar International, who provided Tensar application advice. "Two involved heavy concrete blocks or large cast concrete panels; both would have been too costly and time consuming to construct, and their appearance would have been unsympathetic to the historic architecture.



"The *Tensar tech* TW1 system is fairly new in Poland, and uses split-face blocks produced locally to Tensor's exacting standards. In total, the 19 walls of TW1 amounted to 2 km in length, supplemented by around 300 metres of gabion walling; over 12,000m² of wall in total designed by Drotest."

The ground over which the embankments were built comprises compacted sands and firm-plastic loams with few load-bearing problems. The locally-sourced mineral aggregate fill was layered with Tensor uniaxial geogrid to form mechanically stabilised soil layers within the embankments, fastened to the dry laid TW1 blocks by Tensor's unique polymer key.

"Effectively the embankment is a complete self-supporting stable structure, with aggregate to provide the mass and stabilised by the geogrid layers, which connect under tension to the dry laid walls," adds Jacek Kawalec. "As well as the speed and simplicity of construction, the client and contractors were impressed by the versatility of the design and its visual aesthetics."

"A *Tensar tech* retaining wall is easily constructed with curves to match the road bends. The design can be quickly adapted to meet local requirements and access to embedded services like gas and water is simple, with quick repair. The embankment is load bearing immediately, without waiting for any concrete curing time, so that construction of the road sub-base, asphalt layers, parapet etc follows immediately as the project progresses."

For more information on Tensor *Tensar tech* technology, please visit www.tensor.co.uk.

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Note to editors:

Tensor International is part of Tensor Corporation, a leading global developer and manufacturer of proprietary, highly engineered, non-traditional site-development solutions for infrastructure end-markets, including transportation, commercial and industrial construction.

Tensor provides its customers with an integrated suite of innovative products, technologies and application expertise for a wide variety of end uses, including high performance roadways, earth retention structures, building foundations and erosion and sediment control.

In 2007, Tensor launched TriAx™ a new geogrid which Tensor believes offers superior performance in multi-directional stiffness and aggregate confinement, which enables better radial load resistance, resulting in a reduction in aggregate base thickness and improved resistance to rutting.

The company also offers a comprehensive design service, technical seminars and on-site support, as part of a range of support services. Tensor International, formerly The Netlon Group, was founded in Blackburn, Lancashire, in 1952.

Tensor International
Cunningham Court
Shadsworth Business Park
Shadsworth
Blackburn
BB1 2QX
Tel: 01254 262431
Email: sales@tensor.co.uk