

SUMMARY

Summary of Report 17/2016, relating to the Diagonal-Besòs Campus, years 2008-2014

Barcelona, 7 September 2016

The Public Audit Office for Catalonia has issued Report 17/2016, relating to the Diagonal-Besòs Campus (DBC), financial years 2008 to 2014, in accordance with its Annual Programme of Activities.

This report, which was presented by Board Member Mr Jordi Pons i Novell, was approved by the Audit Office Board at its meeting on 19 July 2016.

The audit work included a review of the official agreements between the different entities participating in the DBC, an audit of financial transactions (revenues and expenditures) relating to the DBC and an audit of procurement contracts arranged by the various DBC participating entities.

Although the time period covered by the report was from 2008 to 2014, those arrangements which had been initiated before 31 December 2014 were followed up until 31 December 2015.

The DBC, located next to the Ronda del Litoral ring road in the boroughs of Barcelona and Sant Adrià de Besòs, is a joint venture of the Government of Catalonia (*Generalitat*), Barcelona Provincial Council (*Diputació*), the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC), Barcelona City Council and Sant Adrià de Besòs Town Council, to build a campus dedicated to engineering and innovation based on a three-pronged model of teaching, innovation and business.

This is a complex project which has suffered many setbacks and planning and scheduling changes because of technical, financial and organisational considerations. Various entities have taken part in the project's execution and, over the years, these organisations have signed numerous agreements, addenda and protocols. Funding has been highly complex, both because of the number of organisations and financing methods involved and because of the economic downturn; this has led to delays in the construction of the buildings. Thus, of the buildings initially envisaged, by 31 December 2015 only three were practically finished and two others had had their foundations and below-ground construction work completed.

One of the factors leading to the creation of the DBC was the agreement signed by Barcelona Provincial Council, the Inter-University Diagonal-Besòs Campus Consortium (CCIDB) and the Industrial School of Barcelona Consortium (CEIB) in 2005 to move the University

School of Technical and Industrial Engineering of Barcelona (EUETIB) to the DBC and allow the Provincial Council to regain the use of the buildings it owned which were housing the EUETIB. This agreement envisaged 31 December 2008 as the deadline for this move. Because of the DBC's construction delays, this deadline has been put back several times. The move is finally planned for the start of the 2016-2017 academic year.

The Conclusions section of the report gives the most significant findings arising from the work carried out, of which the following can be highlighted:

- In 2008 the Besòs Consortium (CB) gave a commission to the public enterprise Barcelona d'Infraestructures Municipals, SA (BIMSA) to carry out the street layout construction for the site where the DBC would be built. However, BIMSA could not be considered an internal or controlled service provider for CB.
- On 25 October 2012 the Catalan Government and the UPC signed a protocol for developing stage one of the DBC, which included the structures below ground level of seven buildings and full construction of three, and envisaged that the b_TEC Foundation, as a controlled service provider for the UPC, would be in charge of managing the construction work. However, the role of the b_TEC Foundation has been very limited, since it has only undertaken a few auxiliary activities.
- On 11 June 2013, in a Cabinet Decision, the Catalan Government commissioned its public enterprise Infraestructures.cat with managing the construction project on behalf of the UPC. This commission was a de facto cancellation of the commission for managing the DBC's construction given by the UPC to the b_TEC Foundation.
- In fulfilment of this Cabinet Decision, the UPC formally commissioned Infraestructures.cat with the construction project management in an agreement signed on 5 July 2013. However, Infraestructures.cat cannot be considered a controlled service provider for the UPC. In reality, this agreement constitutes a service contract awarded to Infraestructures.cat without complying with public sector procurement regulations.
- Funding received to cover the DBC's construction costs up until 31 December 2015 came to €99.15m, according to the review carried out by the Audit Office.

<p>This summary is solely for information purposes. The audit report (in Catalan and Spanish) can be consulted at www.sindicatura.cat.</p>
