

## Project Title

Puerto Cabello to La Encrucijada  
Railway Project, Venezuela

**The Puerto Cabello to La Encrucijada Railway Project is part of a massive 4000km expansion in rail infrastructure, both passenger and freight, planned for Venezuela.**

The initial phase of the planned expansion will increase the length of railway from 329km currently to 475km at an estimated cost of US\$ 7 billion and should provide sufficient capacity to carry over 35 million passengers and 35 million tons of freight annually. Other associated rail projects include routes from Cúa to Caracas and between Puerto Cabello and Barquisimeto.

The US\$1.8B Puerto Cabello to La Encrucijada railway is currently under construction by a joint venture of Ghella Sogene CA, with a local contractor; and Astaldi and Impregilo of Italy on behalf of Instituto Autonomo Ferrocarriles del Estado (IAFE); a government agency attached to the Ministry of Infrastructure.



*Damage to Access Road as a result of the storm*

This 108km railway will provide, when completed, a strategic rail link between Venezuela's principal port, Puerto Cabello, the heavily industrialised cities of Maracay and Valencia and, ultimately, the capital Caracas; and requires the construction of:

- seven stations
- 14 traditionally constructed tunnels (drill & blast) approximately 10m in diameter and 80m to 6,770m long (total length 12,654m)
- 33.000m<sup>2</sup> of ground reinforcement including sprayed concrete and rock-bolts / ground anchors
- 33 viaducts or bridges with a total length of 24.7km
- 10Mm<sup>3</sup> of earthworks
- two inter-ports (freight transfer points)
- and three train storage depots / workshops.



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Insurance Claims Consultants are providing expert services to the international consortia constructing the scheme and are currently undertaking the claims management and negotiation in relation to a major claim, previously repudiated by the project insurers / reinsurers, arising from storm and flood damage to access roads; access roads critical to the construction of two of the longer rail tunnels, and to the overhead power supply serving two of the tunnel construction sites.