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Conway Data, Inc.

Press Release

THE NEW WORLD OF SUPER PROJECTS

Atlanta, September 1, 2005: Millions of people around the world have heard about the Eurotunnel and the Three Gorges Dam. Few, however, could name more than a dozen other global super projects. With little fanfare these huge infrastructure ventures are changing our world. The movement is massive and growing. Here's a fresh review by a veteran researcher based on analysis of more than 2,000 global super projects, each costing US\$1 billion or more.

Thus, we believe you may be interested in the soon-to-be-released new book, *Global Super Projects*, by futurist McKinley Conway who, with data base manager Laura Lyne, has scanned files of more than 2,000 projects costing \$1 billion or more each.

Here are some excerpts:

- Our records for the past 25 years show that the top 10 nations in launching super projects were the United States, Japan, China, Canada, Taiwan, Germany, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, Australia, and Russia – in that order. While the big gap between the United States and other nations may be at least partly attributable to a better reporting system here, we believe that the rankings are otherwise valid.
- The records also show that there is a significant ebb and flow among the nations. During the early 1990s, for example, Japan led the world in undertaking big projects. Then they encountered money problems and their programs of new ventures faded. Meanwhile, in the past decade China has become a world leader in making commitments to big infrastructure developments.
- The second 10 among the nations include: Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, India, Singapore, Brazil, Mexico, France, Thailand, and Egypt. While many factors influence the undertaking of ambitious projects, the level of activity certainly is closely related to the availability of money and the creativity of leadership involved.
- Within the United States, California leads all states by a wide margin. Following, in order, are New York, Texas, Florida, Washington, Nevada, Illinois, New Jersey, Colorado, and Louisiana. Some metro areas in the United States have more projects underway than many of the world's small nations.

Evaluating Project Significance

Which of the more than 2,000 global projects in our database are most significant at this point in time? Conway chose the following top 20 based primarily on their demonstrated capacity to improve quality of life for a large number of people.

The World's Most Outstanding Super Projects of the Current Era

As ranked by Futurist McKinley Conway

- Top environmental program: U.S./RUSSIA nuclear weapons disposal
- Top communications development: The INTERNET
- Top transport project: THE GREAT GLOBAL HIGHWAY linking 100 nations
- Top cargo service: HONG KONG'S container port
- Top space project: NASA'S moon landing
- Top large-nation program: CHINA'S fast modernization
- Top industrial plant: NEW MEXICO'S Intel plant at Rio Rancho
- Top desert reclamation program: SAUDI ARABIA'S seawater desalting plants
- Top rail projects: FRANCE'S "TGV" system
- Top energy project: CANADA'S La Grande James Bay complex
- Top tourism projects: MEXICO'S FONATUR program
- Top new airport: HONG KONG'S Chek Lap Kok project
- Top family entertainment projects: DISNEY theme parks
- Top spans – bridges and tunnels: JAPAN'S Akashi Kaikyo bridge
- Top urban redevelopment project: SHANGHAI'S Pudong district
- Top small-nation program: SINGAPORE'S growth strategy
- Top creative program: DUBAI'S new global image
- Top high-rise project: MALAYSIA'S Petronas Towers
- Top government location project: BRAZIL'S new capital at Brasilia
- Top new urban form: HOUSTON'S (Tex.) Astrodome

(Source: The new book, *Global Super Projects*, from Conway Data, Inc. Atlanta. Copyright 2005.)

For Conway's comments on noteworthy projects in each category, go to www.sitenet.com/books/SuperProjects/promo.htm

About the author

McKinley Conway, founder of Conway Data, has devoted several decades to visiting super project sites around the world. For an inside account of his adventures and misadventures from Antarctica to the Arctic and the Gobi desert to the Great Barrier Reef, see his recent book *Not So Dull!* It can be read gratis on-line at www.conway.com/sitenet/notesodull/ or is available in hard copy format from www.amazon.com.

Note to reviewers:

If you would like to receive a review copy of the new book, *Global Super Projects*, when it is released, please email Eileen Porter: eileen.porter@conway.com.

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