EMILIO LARRODÉ APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF ZARAGOZA LOGISTICS CENTER
Vision for Unique Academia:Industry Collaboration Offered at Center’s Official European Launch

19th January 2004: Emilio Larrodé has been appointed director of the Zaragoza Logistics Center (ZLC), a unique academia: industry collaboration based in Zaragoza, Spain. The appointment of Mr Larrodé, a Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering of the University of Zaragoza and coordinator of the Transportation Engineering division since 1993, coincides with the Center’s official European launch in Madrid, today. Larrodé will take up his position with immediate effect, with the key responsibility for managing the MIT-Zaragoza logistics programme in Europe, working closely with the US-based programme team from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Center for Transportation and Logistics. His vision for the ZLC, a partnership between the Government of Aragón and the University of Zaragoza, was outlined in today’s official European launch event.

The MIT-Zaragoza Program is a new departure for the logistics industry in Europe – the first time a leading academic institution has partnered with industry to create a top-flight academic logistics research Program within a business park. The Zaragoza Logistics Center (ZLC) will host the new research and education partnership with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Center for Transportation and Logistics at its headquarters in the PLAZA logistics park, now being constructed in Aragón’s capital city of Zaragoza.

The mission of the Zaragoza Logistics Center (ZLC) is to become an internationally renowned centre of excellence for logistics research and education, and an engine for economic growth within the Aragón region. Larrodé comments: “By embedding the ZLC campus within the state-of-the-art PLAZA logistics park, participants in the MIT-Zaragoza Logistics Program are able to benefit from a ‘real-life’ laboratory comprised of the parks resident businesses. Our idea is a two-way cooperation – with the Program providing direct added-value to companies that wish to collaborate by giving them instant access to the very latest thinking and research on logistics practices; and to the University by providing real-life business case studies on site. We aim to create a hands-on environment for leading edge research and education, and feel that this “university laboratory inside the business park” may become a new model for academia and industry relationships. I am delighted to take up my new position at ZLC and look forward to moving towards the first academic intake in late 2004.”

Larrodé has been in charge of the University of Zaragoza’s Transportation, Engineering and Logistics department since 1989, a director since 2003, and has played a leading role in national, European and international research and corporate projects during that time. Since 2001, he has coordinated the University’s Master’s Degree in Logistics. Larrodé has published twelve articles focusing on transportation, and has also collaborated in five other books in the field. He has published over thirty articles in national and international journals, and over ninety articles in national and international congress papers.
A regular public speaker, he has participated in over twenty major congresses worldwide. Larrodé is also a member of the European Commission’s Expert’s panel for project evaluation inside the IV, V and VI framework of the European Union. He is a member of the Society for Automotive Engineers (SAE) and the President of the VI Congress of Transportation Engineering, to be held in June 2004.

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About the Zaragoza Logistics Center

The Zaragoza Logistics Center (ZLC), a partnership between the Government of Aragón and the University of Zaragoza, aims to become an internationally renowned centre of excellence for logistics research and education. With its advanced research center embedded in the living laboratory of PLAZA, Zaragoza’s state-of-the-art logistics park, the ZLC will serve as a model for closer cooperation between industry and academia in funding research and using the fruit of the academic research to rapidly reap commercial benefits. To rapidly disseminate concepts and technologies, the ZLC will offer graduate and executive education in logistics, taught in English, to students from around the world. The offerings include a Master of Engineering in Logistics degree (ZLOG), a doctorate degree and a set of executive education courses leading to certificates in various logistics-related disciplines. The curricula will be based on MIT’s top-rated graduate Programs in logistics; the first courses will be offered in the fall of 2004. For more information, see www.zaragozalogistics.com

About PLAZA

A joint initiative between the Government of Aragón and industry, PLAZA is the result of a multi-million Euro investment in Zaragoza to create a state-of-the-art logistics park. The 11-million square-meter development includes specialised infrastructure for areas such as distribution centres, intermodal transportation, customs clearance and hazardous materials and bulk shipment handling, supported with commercial, educational and sports & leisure facilities. The logistics park is well located with regards to both transport and commerce connections, with easy access to road, water air and rail connections to Spain, the rest of Europe, and the world. For more information, see www.plazadosmil.com

About Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is one of the world's pre-eminent research universities, dedicated to advancing knowledge and educating students in science, technology, and other areas of scholarship that will best serve the nation and the world in the 21st century. It is known for rigorous academic Programs, cutting-edge research, a diverse campus community, and its longstanding commitment to working with the public and private sectors to bring new knowledge to bear on the world's great challenges.

The Institute has more than 900 faculty and 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students. It is organized into five Schools — Architecture and Planning, Engineering, Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Management, and Science — and the Whitaker College of Health Sciences and Technology. Within these are 27 degree-granting departments, Programs, and divisions. In addition, a great deal of research and teaching takes place in interdisciplinary Programs, laboratories and Centers whose work extends beyond traditional departmental boundaries. Forty-seven alumni, faculty, researchers and staff have won Nobel Prizes. For more information on MIT, see http://web.mit.edu/.

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