

## NEWS

### **WEBUILD RECEIVES SAMOTER 2026 INNOVATION AWARD FOR GRAND ETHIOPIAN RENAISSANCE DAM**

- *Inaugurated last September, the dam represents Africa's energy transition, and sets a global benchmark for large hydropower infrastructure*

MILAN, May 6, 2026 – Webuild has received the Samoter Innovation Award 2026 for the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). The award, presented as part of the SaMoTer International Construction Machinery Exhibition organised by Veronafi in Italy, recognises the technological value of a project that is transforming Ethiopia's energy landscape and setting a benchmark for efficiency in large-scale hydropower infrastructure.

Established in 1973, the award is one of Europe's longest-standing recognitions of excellence in construction engineering. With this accolade, the jury places the GERD among transformative projects that go beyond addressing technical challenges, introducing instead a genuine paradigm shift in infrastructure, as well as industrial and energy development.

The GERD is the largest hydropower project on in Africa, and one of the largest worldwide. It was designed to double Ethiopia's electricity production capacity, providing a stable and dispatchable renewable energy source equivalent to that of three medium-sized nuclear power plants - with zero greenhouse gas emissions.

It is a roller-compacted concrete (RCC) gravity dam, 170 metres high and 1.8 kilometres long, with an installed capacity of 5,150 MW and an annual production capacity of 15,700 GWh. These figures only partially capture the complexity of a project that combines structural reliability with the management of a 172-kilometre-long artificial reservoir, in one of the world's most challenging geographical and operational contexts. From an engineering standpoint, the GERD represents an exercise in precision. The construction site set a world record as early as 2014, with the placement of 23,000 cubic metres of RCC in just 24 hours, further demonstrating an industrial organization capable of combining speed of execution with rigorous quality control.

The jury for the SaMoTer Award also recognised the project's socioeconomic value. A fully developed civil infrastructure has grown around the GERD construction site, including a hospital, medical clinics, a school, sports facilities, permanent road links and production services. More than 25,000 people, largely Ethiopian nationals, were involved in the project's construction, acquiring specialised skills that remain a lasting asset for the country. In this sense, GERD is not only a hydropower plant, but also an accelerator of industrial capacity and a tool for enhancing human capital, supported by significant investments in training and workplace safety.

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*Webuild is a global leader in the construction of large, complex infrastructure, with a focus on sustainable mobility, hydropower, water treatment and supply, and green buildings. It has long been recognised as the world's top contractor in the water infrastructure sector. Active in approximately 50 countries, the Group employs some 95,000 people directly and indirectly of over 125 nationalities. With 120 years of history and over 3,700 completed projects, Webuild boasts a track record that includes 13,686 kilometres of railways, 895 kilometres of metros, 82,708 kilometres of roads and highways, 1,023 kilometres of bridges and viaducts, 3,466 kilometres of tunnels, and 320 dams and hydropower plants. Among its most iconic delivered projects are the Grand Ethiopian*

*Renaissance Dam, the expansion of the Panama Canal, the Long Beach International Gateway in the United States, the Second Bosphorus Bridge in Turkey, the Riachuelo environmental restoration system in Argentina, and new metro lines in cities such as Copenhagen, Paris, Rome, Milan, Naples, Doha, Thessaloniki, and Riyadh. Among those under construction are strategic public works in Italy, such as the New Genoa Breakwater, the Brenner Base Tunnel, the Pedemontana Lombarda Highway, Rome Metro's Line C, sections of high-speed and/or high-capacity railways between Genoa and Milan, Verona and Padua, Naples and Bari, and Palermo, Catania and Messina. Abroad, there is the Snowy 2.0 hydropower scheme in Australia and key sections of the Grand Paris Express in France. As of December 31, 2025, the Group reported total revenues of €13.6 billion and a total order backlog of €58.4 billion, with over 95% of the construction backlog aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Webuild is headquartered in Italy and subject to the direction and coordination of Salini Costruttori S.p.A. Listed on the Milan Stock Exchange (WBD; WBD.MI; WBD:IM), its stock is included in the MIB ESG index of Italy's leading blue-chip companies for ESG practices.*

[More information at www.wbuildgroup.com](http://www.wbuildgroup.com)



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