



EURIDICE IS BUILDING NEW INFRASTRUCTURE

After the extension of the underground laboratory of EIG EURIDICE last year – as announced in **EURIDICE [flash]** number 2, the underground laboratory HADES was extended by the construction of a connecting gallery – work has now shifted to the surface infrastructure.

Before commissioning the new part of the research laboratory, the ventilation of the whole underground infrastructure must be taken care of. To this end, a whole new ventilation system is currently being built on the EIG EURIDICE site.

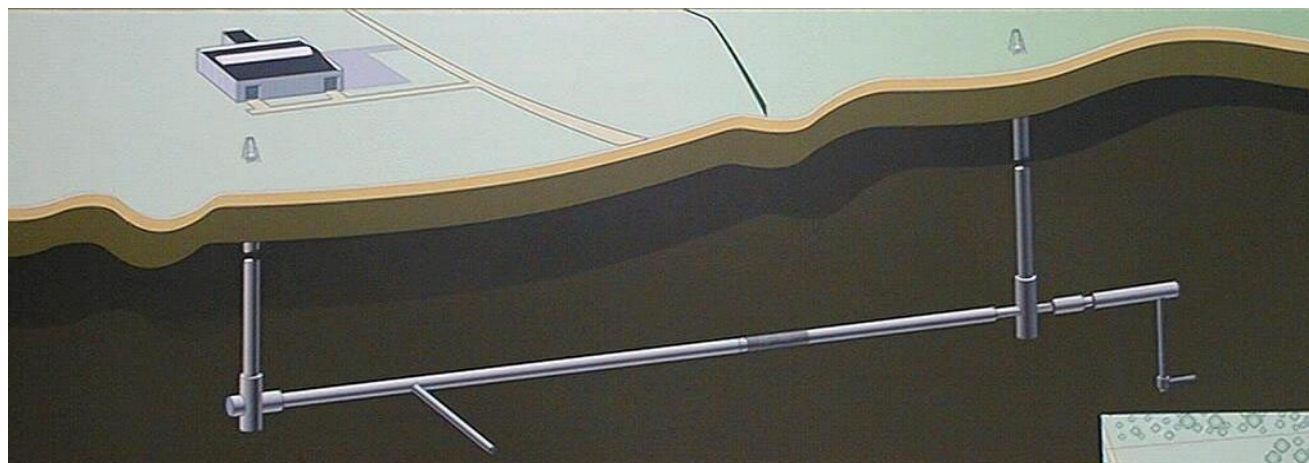


Figure 1: The underground laboratory HADES with, on the left, the recently built shaft which will become the main shaft

The above figure shows the underground laboratory and the two shafts. The laboratory will be ventilated by blowing air through the main shaft (the new shaft built in 1999). The air will be evacuated through the underground galleries in the other shaft (the old shaft built in 1982).

To reach this objective, a ventilation building is being built around the main shaft. Since the new shaft will become the main access shaft to the underground laboratory, the surface infrastructure and the personnel will be centralized around the main shaft. For this reason, the ventilation building comprises among others – besides a space surrounding the shaft tower – an airlock, a workshop and technical rooms. The building will be hermetically sealed and must withstand overpressure of 150 Pa as well as vibrations caused by the functioning of the lifting device. The figure below shows the building site activities and a representation of the building as it will be after the work is completed. The building will have a surface area of 35 x 45 metres and a maximum height of 22 metres.

EIG EURIDICE is building new offices next to the ventilation building. The centralization of personnel around the new shaft and the growth of EIG EURIDICE, among other things, as a result of the extension of its competencies following the change of statutes in December 2000, makes this extension necessary.

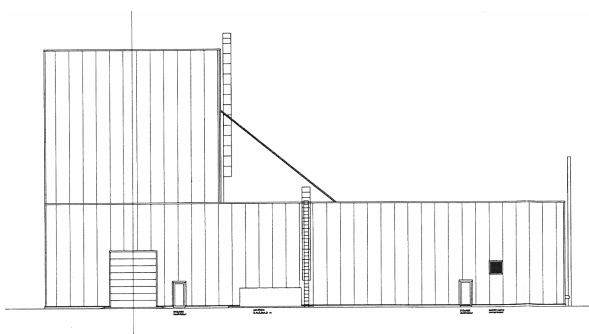


Figure 2: View of the lifting device of the main shaft and building site activities



The work is carried out by the temporary association Vanhout-Smet Tunneling (Geel and Dessel region), the architect is Mr Herman Loots from Retie. Construction started in January 2003 and will be completed in the course of the third quarter of 2003. The cost price of the construction work pertains to around 1,5 million euro.

It is always possible to visit the EIG EURIDICE with a group. Please contact Mrs Brigitte Pitz at the following number: 014 33 27 84.

ONDRAF/NIRAS stands for:	Belgian Agency for Radioactive Waste and Enriched Fissile Materials
SCK•CEN stands for:	Nuclear Research Centre
EURIDICE stands for:	European Underground Research Infrastructure for Disposal of nuclear waste In Clay Environment