

Press release

## **CFE Group wins award for large-scale circular concrete in ZIN IN NO(O)RD project**



**Brussels, 1 December 2023 – ZIN IN NO(O)RD, the largest sustainable renovation project in the Benelux, has won the FEBE Element Award in the category ‘Precats in Structures’. The Brussels project was honored for using 30,000 tons of recycled concrete sourced from its site, a first in Belgium. ZIN IN NO(O)RD is a realization of CFE companies BPC Group, Van Laere, and VMA on behalf of Befimmo, in collaboration with Ergon nv and Prefaco nv.**

The ZIN IN NO(O)RD project involves the dismantling and redevelopment of the existing WTC towers, connected by a new central volume. The building will become the new headquarters of the Flemish Community and will also include residential units, a hotel, office space, sports facilities, restaurants, and retail.

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For the compression slabs, floor slabs, and prefabricated concrete slabs of the ZIN IN NO(O)RD project, **30,000 tons of dismantled concrete** from the old WTC towers were sorted, crushed, and processed into 3,500 tons of A+ aggregates. These high-quality aggregates were integrated into **30,000 tons of new Cradle to Cradle™ Silver-certified concrete**, ensuring health, environmental friendliness, and recyclability. According to the jury, this application proves that significant strides can be made towards a more sustainable production and construction process when using prefabricated concrete.



*"In addition to making buildings energy-efficient with technology and large-scale timber construction, renovation is the third most important way to make our buildings and construction processes more sustainable. Concrete will always be necessary for buildings of this size, but here we show that recycling and circular construction are indeed possible. The right material in the right place, that is our starting point,"* says **Manu Coppens**, CEO of Van Laere.

**BPC Group** and **Van Laere** are responsible for the general contracting of ZIN IN NO(O)RD, and **VMA** for all techniques and smart building technology. The three companies are part of the **CFE Group**, whose mission is to change the status quo in how we live, work, produce, move, and generate energy. The Group is active in the markets of sustainable buildings, smart industry, and infrastructure for the mobility and energy of the future.



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### **About CFE**

CFE is a multidisciplinary group active in Belgium, Luxembourg and Poland in four core activities with a significant growth potential that shape tomorrow's world: real estate development, multitechnics, construction & renovation and sustainable investments. With a turnover of 1,200 million euros, more than 3,100 employees and long experience and expertise gathered since its foundation in 1880, the CFE group has the ambition to challenge the status quo and create positive change by providing a successful answer to environmental and societal challenges to ensure the well-being of future generations. The group realises this ambition by putting sustainability, innovation and respect for its employees at the heart of its strategy and by offering its clients total solutions.

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