

Accomplishing An Exemplary Engineering and Operational Feat for The Champlain Bridge Project.

Sarens specially designed Floating Foundation Installer (FFI) performs the challenging installation of footings for the New Champlain Bridge, Canada.

Construction of the New Champlain Bridge represents one of North America's biggest worksites at the heart of Montreal's transportation network and vital to Canada and specifically Quebec's economic growth. The New Champlain Bridge Corridor Project involves replacement of the existing Champlain Bridge over the St Lawrence River.

The existing structure is one of the busiest crossings in the country for about 40 to 60 million care, trucks and buses a year, and is a critical passageway for the regional and Canadian economies. In terms of Canada-US trade more than \$20 billion worth cross-border goods pass through this trade corridor each year.

Sarens was roped in for this esteemed project by SSLC (Signature sur le Saint Laurent) which is a joint venture company between SNC Lavalin, Dragados, Flation and others. The task involved installation of 38 footings for the New Champlain Bridge over the Saint Laurence river in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

The bridge will be made up of 74 footings, 38 of which will be prefabricated at the jetty, while the 36 other footings will be made by pouring concrete directly into foundations in the river bed. Each footing is 11 metres by 2 metres (or 9 x 9 x 2 metres) and comes with a pier starter, giving the overall assembly a height of up to 14 metres. The weight of a single botting ranges between 600-1000 tonne.

The Floating Foundation Installer (FFI)

The FFI was contemplated specifically for the New Champian Bridge Project to transport 38 footing and initial pier section combinations from the july to their final location at the bottom of the Saint Lawrence Rever. The FFI is a Self-project contament that can Il frameport and rest all foundations by the own means. It is outflitted to operate in strong currents and to lift and transport parts that can weight up to 1000 forme. The fifting apparatus has a luminable, allowing for a 380 degree contain or the parts.

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An advanced GPS system was used to position the FFI and the footing accurately. Additional adjustments were made using the FFI's turntable, which allowed workers to rotate the part when necessary. The part was lowered and put into place with a hydraulic cable and pulley system and hydraulic jacks. Final positioning checks were made with the GPS and precision prisms, located on each footing.

The FFI then returned to the dock and repeated the entire operation with the next footing. Upon completion of the installation of the first footing, the Client responded, "From the early stages of the feasibility studies till the final design and construction, there has been a remarkable and close collaboration between SSLC team and Sarens team. All leading to the successful installation of the first footing loday."

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