

Sevilla metro inaugurated

SPAIN: The first phase of Sevilla metro Line 1 was officially inaugurated on April 2 by the then President of Andalucía, Manuel Chaves González. Following a visit to the workshops and control centre, the president and other dignitaries boarded the first train which departed at 13.40.

The metro then opened to the public, with free rides for the rest of the day. Revenue services began the following day, with services operating at 4 min headways in peak periods.

Phase 1 runs for 18 km from Ciudad Expo in the southwest to Condequinto in the southeast, and currently serves 17 stations, of which 11 are underground. Puerta de Jerez station has not opened yet, pending completion of repairs following a ground collapse in December. The final section of Line 1 from Condequinto to Olivar de Quintos, which will also run in tunnel, is still under construction.

The line has interchanges with RENFE services at San Bernardo and with the long-distance bus station at Prado. Provision has been made for a further interchange at Guadaíra, where the metro intersects the RENFE suburban ring line.



The line has a fleet of five-section 65 km/h CAF light rail vehicles, which are equipped for automatic train operation.

Meanwhile, planning is underway for Lines 2, 3 and 4, with the city hoping to award the first construction contracts in 2010 (MR 6.08 p14). Line 2 would run east-west for 12.9 km linking Isla de la Cartuja with Torreblanca through the historic city centre. Line 3 would provide an 11.6 km north-south axis paralleling the Guadalquivir river between Los Bermejales and Pino Montano, while the 16 km Line 4 will form a horseshoe shaped orbital route around the city centre. ↩