

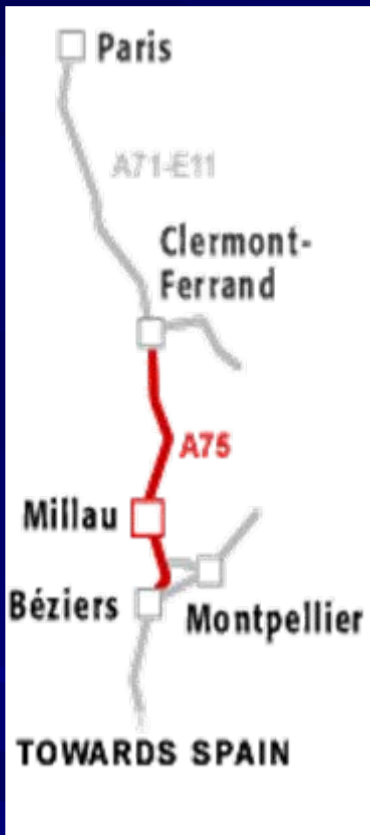
The Millau Bridge



Millau, France 2005

The Millau Bridge

- Currently the world's tallest vehicle carrying bridge.
- Designed by British engineers! (not something the French appreciated)
- The construction of the Millau bridge involved the most technically advanced procedures ever developed outside of a military programme. Its development involved using the latest in laser, GPS, high performance concrete and traverser technology. All of these were needed to overcome the challenges of building a 3km long bridge 260m in the air and ensuring that it wasn't going to collapse during its 78 years of service.



Key facts

- **Length:** 2,460 m
Width: 32 m
Maximum height: 343 m, i.e. 20 m higher than the Eiffel Tower
Height of the tallest pier (P2): 245 m
Number of piers: 7
Width of each span: 342 m
Cable-stay tension: 900 t for the longest ones
Weight of the steel deck: 36 000 t, i.e. 4 times the Eiffel Tower
Volume of concrete: 206 000 t
Cost of construction: 400 million € (£272 million)
- **Length of operation:** 78 years – 3 years of construction and 75 years of operation



The Road Deck

- 95% of the Road Deck was constructed on site at either the north or south of the Millau Valley. Instead of building parts of the deck on the bridge itself the entire deck was built at once on the ground and then slid out at a rate of 7m an hour it took round the clock work to ensure that the automatic jacks which moved the deck were aligned correctly and enabled the deck to curve over the valley.



The Finished Bridge

