

# Soon Serbia will have its own IKEA

VIRTUALLY EVERYBODY KNOWS THE WORLD'S BIGGEST FURNITURE RETAILER IKEA, AND MANY OF US MAY EVEN HAVE THEIR UBIQUITOUS DO-IT-YOURSELF ITEMS AT HOME. WHILST THE FIRM SPECIALIZES IN FLAT-PACK SELF-ASSEMBLY FURNITURE, FOR EXPANDING THEIR OPERATIONS AND CONSTRUCTING NEW FACILITIES THEY NEED A KNOWLEDGEABLE PARTNER TO HELP THEM DO THAT.

Having worked with the company in other countries, Tebodin has been engaged to support the construction of the first IKEA store to be opened in Serbia.

Founded back in 1943, IKEA today operates some 375 stores in 28 countries and has business operations in 43 countries. Its products are designed to be eco-friendly and the company is renowned for its attention to cost control, operational details and continuous product development. So it is perhaps no surprise to know that the new facilities in Serbia will be certified according to BREEAM green building standard.

## Geothermal energy

In addition to the standard BREEAM requirements for waste, transport, and ecology, the project in Serbia embodies innovative solutions that meet IKEA's high standards in the field of energy efficiency. The new project will encompass HVAC cooling and heating systems that exploit geothermal energy from three wells, and electric power that will partly be supplied

from photo voltaic cells that are to be installed on the store roof.

## Belgrade serving South East Europe

IKEA established its presence in the South East Europe region in 2008, with a focus on four countries: Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, and Romania. The first Serbian store, IKEA Belgrade East is due to open in 2017, and is to herald possible projects in other Serbian cities.

Although Tebodin was previously involved in IKEA's store construction projects in Romania, Czech Republic, Poland and China, it was the local market experience and Serbian track record that played the major role in IKEA's decision to partner up for this project. Tebodin is engaged as a FIDIC (Fédération Internationale Des Ingénieurs-Conseils) engineer, complying with FIDIC's Red Book – conditions of contracts for construction. This includes technical control of designs, site supervision, and health and safety coordination services. ■

