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## PRESS RELEASE

# ALPINE supports interdisciplinary collaboration of students

**"Concrete Student Trophy 2009" has been sponsored by ALPINE for the 4th time**

The Concrete Student Trophy, the Austria's first Construction and Architecture Competition, is based on the interdisciplinary collaboration between students of structural engineering and architecture. "An interdisciplinary approach during their studies, is important for students. They have to learn to develop common solutions," emphasizes Ing. Karl Gruber, one of the managing directors of ALPINE Bau GmbH and one of the competition's jury members.

### **The concrete project of 2009 competition: folding footbridge and bicycle bridge**

The Concrete Student Trophy was awarded for the fourth time this year, sponsored, among others, by the ALPINE construction group. Students faced the challenge of designing a folding pedestrian and bicycle bridge made of concrete across the Vienna River at the Urania. The bridge design had to take an outlet width of 60 meters and the corresponding bridge span as well as the requirements for listed landmarks into account. The design had to accommodate the daily shipping traffic by the Twin City Liner and a tack maneuver at the Vienna River confluence. The architecture student, Bosko Marusic from Bosnia and the structural engineering student, Blaz Mulavec from Slovenia, both studying in Graz, were able to best meet all of the criteria and won first place at the Concrete Student Trophy. Their "Bridge" – called handshake over the Vienna River- not only scored in its interdisciplinary but also in its intercultural approach. "The two slightly oblique bridge components merge into a handshake that impart a feeling of security and freedom to the people crossing the bridge," is how the winners describe their project. Three teams of students tied for second place with their projects "The Floating Bridge," "Curved Connection" and "Vienna Promenade." The participating teams were from Graz, Vienna and Innsbruck.

"The Concrete Student Trophy was very successful again this year and brought forth a number of young talents. ALPINE will sponsor the competition again next year," adds Gruber.

*The **ALPINE** Group, a member of the FCC Group, is a global player. With a construction output of EUR 3.5 billion in 2008 and a staff of roughly 15,530, ALPINE is the second biggest construction group in Austria .For more information visit <http://www.alpine.at>*

#### Photos:

Photo Winners FLTR:

Karl Gruber, Bosko Marusic ,Blaz Mulavec, Elsa Prochazka (Jury-president), Frank Huber (organiser from the part of Zement & Beton)



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