

A brief history of the works

- **14 December 2001:** the first stone was laid.
- **Beginning 2002:** construction work started.
- **April 2002:** 260,000m³ out of the required 320,000m³ of earth had been moved. The number of persons working at the site reached 250.
- **August 2002:** Welding started on the box beams in the southern abutment.

The box beams started to arrive at the Millau worksite in mid-August. These deliveries, from the Eiffel factory at Fos-sur-Mer, enabled the first welding operations to start at the end of September. On average these members weighed sixty tonnes and were seventeen metres long. They form the backbone of the metal deck, whose launch was planned to start in early 2003.

- **October 2002: pier P2 exceeded 100 in height.**
P2, which is the viaduct's tallest pier, rose at the rate of 4m every three days. It was more than 70m tall at the start of October. Above this height, a telescopic crane was required to lift materials to the top of the pier.
- **5 February 2003: first record broken by the pier P2.** Pier P2 of the Millau viaduct reached a height of 143m and broke the French record, held till then by a pier of the Viaduc de Verrières (141.5 m).
- **25 - 27 February 2003:**
First phase of (L1) of deck launching from the southern abutment (114 m).
- **25 and 26 March 2003:**
Second phase (L2) of deck launching from the southern abutment (114 m).



*Top: first phase (L1) of launching.
Centre: the launching equipment
Bottom: pier P2 during construction when more than 100m high (photos Eiffage)*

Launching of 114m length from the southern abutment (C8):

- **25 - 27 February 2003:**

First phase (L1): the deck was pushed forward to the edge of the abutment to begin a new assembly phase.

- **25 and 26 March 2003:**

Second phase (L2): the deck reached the temporary pier TP7.

- **03 - 05 July 2003:**

Third phase (L3): the deck docked with pier P7.

- **25 and 26 August 2003:**

Fourth phase (L4): the deck was laid on Py6 after being pushed 171m forward.

Launching from the northern abutment (C0) :

- **23 - 25 July 2003:**

First phase (L1): the deck had been pushed to the end of the assembly platform..

- **10 and 11 September 2003:**

second phase (L2): the deck extended 60m beyond pier P1.

Piers:

- **12 June 2003:** pier P2 reached a height of 181m and broke the world record.