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A Strong Foundation

By Dónal Thompson



Building bridges and building leaders

Rafael del Pino founded Ferrovial in 1952. The company's aim was to set up and operate workshops for RENFE (Spain's railway company). Only two years later Ferrovial was working on its first international project in Venezuela.

In March this year Ferrovial became part of the Trans-Texas Corridor project; the largest infrastructure project *ever* in the US.

If this were Hollywood such success would be symbolised by plush limousines, vast mansions and all the trappings of conspicuous wealth.

But this is not Hollywood. This is Spain. And Spain, as we know, is different.

In May 2001 Ferrovial's founder said thank you.

"I have set up the Rafael del Pino Foundation," he said, "to return part of what the Spanish society has given to me throughout my personal and professional life."

The aim of the foundation is to build Spain's future leaders. But not just industry leaders. The economy, business, law, justice, mass media, politics, public administration, international relations and, of course, teaching are all areas to which the *Rafael del Pino Foundation* intends to contribute.

In a world dominated by the English language, the foundation also works to promote Spanish as a means of communication. Spanish is, after all, the second most widely used language in the world.

Believing that you can't know where you're going if you don't know where you've been, the foundation also intends to foster the knowledge of history.

The Rafael Del Pino Foundation administers four special awards:-

- The **Libre Empresa Prize** is awarded to books published by Spanish authors, which highlight the values of market economics.
- The **Virrey del Pino Prize** is given to the best work written about any period of Spanish American history.
- The **Investiga Prize** rewards the best Doctoral dissertation on economy, law, business, politics, international relations, media or education.
- The **Trámite Parlamentario y Municipal Award** values the initiatives which eliminate inefficient regulations or foster competition.

Whether you're building bridges or building futures, you need a strong foundation. Perhaps the Rafael Del Pino Foundation will prove to be one of Spain's most enduring.