

# Europe and Africa set for rail tunnel link

Plans by the governments of Spain and Morocco to build a tunnel between Europe and Africa are gathering pace as engineers assess the challenges of building twin rail links beneath the Strait of Gibraltar – an area known for its seismic activity

## CONSTRUCTION

West rail tunnel

Transverse passage

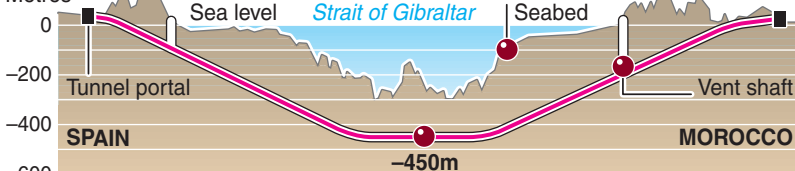
Service tunnel

First phase to begin 2008

East rail tunnel

## ELEVATION

Metres

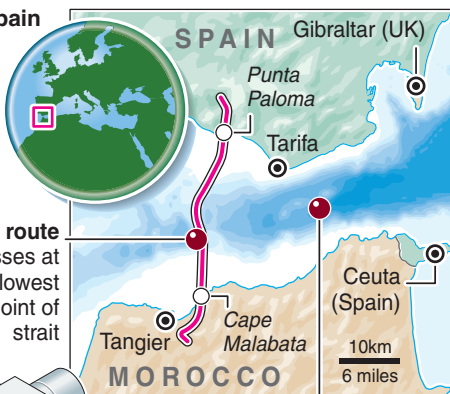


\*Links UK and France. Eventual cost \$16bn

\*\*Maximum below seabed

Sources: International Tunnelling Association, Lombardi Engineering

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Tunnel route

Crosses at shallowest point of strait

**Strait of Gibraltar:** Narrowest point is too deep for tunnel

*Gibraltar Channel Strait Tunnel Tunnel\**

Length	40km	50km
Undersea	28km	39km
Depth**	300m	75m
Initial cost	\$13bn	\$7bn*
Completion	2025	1994