

17 February 2012

## MERSEY GATEWAY PROJECT ANNOUNCES BIDDERS SHORTLIST

The shortlist of three bidders for the Mersey Gateway Project has been announced.

The three shortlisted bidders (in alphabetical order) are:

- ***Balfour Beatty, Bouygues Travaux Publics, Egis Projects consortium***, comprising equity members Balfour Beatty plc, Bouygues Travaux Publics and Egis Projects,
- ***Merseylink consortium***, comprising equity members Macquarie Capital Group Limited, Bilfinger Berger Project Investments Limited, Vialia Sociedad Gestora de Concesiones de Infraestructuras S.L. and FCC Construcción S.A., and
- ***MGL consortium***, comprising equity members Galliford Try Investments Limited, Hochtief PPP Solutions GmbH and Iridium Concesiones de Infraestructuras S.A.

The three were selected by Halton Borough Council from the expressions of interest received from six groups in December 2011. The selection has been based on the published pre-qualification criteria where the shortlisted bidders were awarded the highest scores.

The successful candidates will now be invited to compete for a contract to design, build, finance and operate a new toll bridge over the River Mersey between Runcorn and Widnes and associated work in the towns. The value of the construction phase, including land, is estimated at £600m.

Cllr. Rob Polhill, Leader of Halton Borough Council, said: "We have attracted world class construction groups that have come together to compete for this prestigious contract. I look forward to announcing the eventual winner and the commencement of construction later next year."

Steve Nicholson, Mersey Gateway Project Director, said: "We were delighted with the quality and the quantity of the submissions we received. Each of the six groups we evaluated met our requirements but we set out to limit the procurement process to three bidding groups and we have maintained this approach so that we can reduce bid costs whilst running an effective competition."

He added: "During the next year the project team will work with the shortlisted bidders to develop proposals that deliver quality and value for money on behalf of the taxpayer."

## **ENDS**

For further information or interview requests please call:

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### **About the project:**

The centrepiece of the Mersey Gateway Project is a new six-lane toll bridge over the Mersey between the towns of Runcorn and Widnes.

In addition to speeding up journey times and improving journey reliability in the region it will act as a catalyst for investment and bring benefits over four times greater than the investment cost, including:

- an estimated 4,640 new jobs through direct employment, regeneration activity and inward investment, and
- the generation of a conservative estimate of £61.9 million a year in Gross Value Added from the new jobs by 2030.

The existing Silver Jubilee Bridge will also be tolled as part of the project.

It is anticipated that construction work will start within two years, and that the new bridge will take around three years to complete.

As well as the income from tolls, the Department for Transport will provide £86m in capital grant towards land and remediation and up to £14.55m per year in long-term revenue support for 26.5 years from opening to fund the scheme.