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NEWS RELEASE



Midlands Highway Alliance announces Contractors for £98m Framework

The Midlands Highways Alliance (MHA), made up of ten councils and the Highways Agency, has selected four contractors to service the key contract in a package of several new highway construction and maintenance frameworks. The successful contractors for the *MHA Medium Schemes Framework* are Balfour Beatty/Birse (Joint Venture), Carillion, Osbornes/Aggregate Industries (Joint Venture) and Tarmac. The winners of the contract were unveiled at the MHA's Programme Board Meeting at the Loughborough Innovation Centre on November 9th.

The Medium Schemes Framework is for new highway schemes each valued at up to £8.0m. The MHA estimates that its local authority members will procure projects worth around £48 million through this new framework in the first year with the Highways Agency procuring a further £50m.

The Medium Schemes Framework is available to all highway authorities, along with the Highways Agency, in the East and West Midlands Regions, together with those adjacent authorities in neighbouring regions.

By working together, the MHA aims to reap efficiency gains of up to 10%, speed up the procurement process and deliver schemes to a higher standard. The spend through the framework is expected to increase up to £150 million in following years as public bodies are placed under greater pressure to realise efficiency gains in the face of spending constraints.

Higher quality projects are also a priority as the Alliance will share innovation and performance data across its members, improve working practices, and aid workflow throughout the supply chain.

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Editors Notes:

1. The participating local highway authorities are:

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| Derby City Council | Derbyshire County Council |
| Leicester City Council | Leicestershire County Council (Lead LA) |
| Lincolnshire County Council | Northamptonshire County Council |
| Nottingham City Council | Nottinghamshire County Council |
| Peterborough City Council | Rutland County Council |

2. Councillor Nicholas Rushton, Deputy Leader of Leicestershire County Council with responsibility for Highways and Transportation, said, "Leicestershire County Council is delighted to be leading this initiative which is unique in the UK. We recognise the benefits of collaborative working particularly in the procurement of major transport infrastructure projects. This will provide not only improved value for money, but better solutions for highways services."

3. Hilary Chipping, Procurement Director at the Highways Agency said, "We are pleased to be part of the Midlands Highways Alliance, the first partnership of its kind and leading the way for driving forward the delivery of real efficiency savings across projects in highways authorities."

4. Funded by Communities and Local Government, the nine Regional Centres of Excellence are the lead change agents for local government efficiency. They are supporting councils to secure millions of pounds in efficiencies that are being re-invested in better front-line services. The East Midlands Centre of Excellence is the lead change agent for the national construction work stream.

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