



Egis Projects, through its subsidiary Transroute UK, has just been awarded a contract in Scotland for the renovation of a toll plaza and the replacement of its equipment.

The Forth Road Bridge toll plaza

The toll plaza of the Forth Road Bridge, at the mouth of the River Forth, about ten miles from Edinburgh, has been operating since 1964 and was renovated in 1991.

Initially forecasted for 40 000 vehicles a day, the Forth Road Bridge toll plaza has seen strong growth in traffic. In July 2004, the operator, Forth Estuary Transport Authority (FETA), issued a call for tenders for the replacement of the tolling equipment and the extension of the operating premises.

Egis Projects, through its subsidiary Transroute UK, was in competition with four other bidders, Q-Free, Mowlem-Indra, Tollink-Efkon and Kapsch-Ascom and emerged as the winner. The project comprises the design, supply, installation and maintenance of equipment for the 7 lane toll plaza as well as the civil engineering work on the plaza and its canopy.

The total cost of the project will be £4.8 million (€7.2 million), funded entirely by FETA.

Project development

The contract contains a number of innovative features. Total project cost will first be assessed and fixed by the client. The contractor, Transroute UK, will have three months to carry out a detailed study and renegotiate the terms of the contract if necessary. If the cost at completion is lower than the initial cost, client and contractor will share the benefit - but also the loss in the case of an overshoot. This type of contract leads to greater cooperation between the contracting parties and is an incentive for the contractor to make every effort to complete the project below cost.

Transroute UK, a wholly owned subsidiary of **Egis Projects**, will subcontract the civil engineering work for the toll plaza and its canopy to **Raynesway Construction** (a subsidiary of Balfour Beatty).

Several **Groupe Egis** companies, including **Scetauroute** and **ISIS**, are also involved in this project. Scetauroute will be the overall project coordinator and will carry out the civil engineering studies of the toll lanes.

The construction contract will extend over 15 months (completion scheduled for February 2006) and includes the maintenance of the tolling equipment for 5 years.

Egis Projects in U.K.

Egis Projects, through its subsidiaries Transroute UK and UK Highways Services, is already present in the United Kingdom in the operation and maintenance of the M40 London to Birmingham motorway (80 miles). Transroute UK supplied and installed the traffic measurement equipment in 1997 to enable shadow tolling* of the project road. Routine operation and maintenance of the motorway including shadow tolling equipment is carried out by UK Highways Services Ltd. Turnover in 2004 was £8.70 million (€ 14 million) for UK Highways (The Concessionaire Company).

** Shadow tolling is a system designed to fund transport infrastructure projects. The government entrusts a private concessionaire with raising the capital, building, and operating an infrastructure project. The concessionaire is paid by a sum based on the volume and type of traffic. Use of the infrastructure is free of charge and funding comes out of general taxation and not from user charges.*

Groupe Egis is a subsidiary of the Caisse des dépôts Group, with €423 million of output in 2003 and 4000 employees worldwide. It is one of the world's leading companies in transport infrastructure engineering, providing full service solutions comprising engineering, major project development and the operating of motorway concessions.

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