



Press release

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Full speed ahead for HS2 as first contracts awarded for Phase Two

Following the Government's announcement on Phase Two of HS2, running from Birmingham to Manchester and Leeds, HS2 Ltd has awarded its first contracts to take the project forward to the next stages.

The contracts will provide engineering and environmental services for each leg of the route. This work will include developing the initial concept engineering designs and preparing sound demonstrations for the consultation on Phase Two, which has been brought forward to start later this year.

Alison Munro, Chief Executive of HS2 Ltd, said:

"HS2 will transform the UK through bringing our major cities closer together, helping to promote economic growth, driving regional regeneration, creating thousands of jobs and providing a long-term solution to the capacity crunch facing our existing rail network.

"We have already created 1,200 jobs through our Professional Services Framework for Phase One of the scheme and Phase Two will create thousands more.

"We have achieved a tremendous amount so far and we now have an excellent team in place to take Phase Two forward to the next stages including the consultation, which has been brought forward to start later this year."

Under the Phase Two Professional Services Framework, HS2 Ltd has awarded the following contracts:

Lot 1 – covering engineering services for the west leg of the route, from Birmingham to Manchester.

Awarded to: AECOM Ltd

Value: £3.1m

Lot 1 – covering engineering services for the east leg of the route, from Birmingham to Leeds.

Awarded to: Mott MacDonald

Value: £3.2m

The Lot 1 contracts have been awarded to March 2015 and will include the work to refine the route proposals post consultation on Phase Two.

Lot 2 – covering environmental services for both legs of the route. The purpose of this contract is to develop the sound demonstrations to be used as part of the Phase Two consultation.

Awarded to: Arup

Value: £1.1m

This contract has been awarded to March 2015.

HS2 Ltd contracts are awarded following public body procurement rules based on the principles of equal treatment, transparency and non-discrimination.

ENDS

HS2 Ltd press enquiries: 020 7944 6149 (business hours)

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Notes to Editors:

High Speed Rail:

- The Government gave the go-ahead for a UK High Speed Rail network – called High Speed 2 (HS2) – on 10 January 2012.
- HS2 will be a Y-shaped rail network providing direct, high capacity, high speed links between London, Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester, with intermediate stations in the East Midlands and South Yorkshire. There will be a direct link to the Continent via the High Speed 1 (HS1) line.
- HS2 will improve capacity across the rail network, shorten journey times between Britain's major population centres, boost the economy and create thousands of jobs.
- HS2 will be built in two phases to ensure that the benefits of high speed rail are realised as early as possible. The line between London and the West Midlands and a connection to High Speed 1 are expected to open in 2026

(HS2 Phase One), followed in 2032/33, by the onward legs to Manchester and Leeds.

- Phase One of HS2 will cost around £16.3bn to construct (2011 prices.)
- The full network, including Phase Two and the link to High Speed 1 and the Channel Tunnel but without a direct Heathrow connection, will cost £33.1bn to construct (2011 prices.)
- In September 2012, the Government launched an independent Airports Commission to identify and recommend options for maintaining the country's global hub status. The Commission will publish the final report by summer 2015. Further work on a link to Heathrow will now await the Government's considerations of the conclusions and recommendation of the Airports Commission.
- The construction costs of HS2 would be spread over two decades, and on this basis would involve an average level of annual spend of less than £2 billion a year.
- HS2 Ltd is a company wholly owned by the Department for Transport.