



Falmouth Harbour
Commissioners

TENDER AWARDED FOR FALMOUTH BAY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners and A&P Falmouth Limited have signed the final documentation which awards Royal Haskoning the contract, worth over £half a million, for a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) into the feasibility of dredging a deeper approach channel to Falmouth Docks and constructing a wharf and cruise reception building.

Founded in 1881, Royal Haskoning has 3,200 employees around the world. The contract has been awarded to their Exeter team, part of Royal Haskoning's Environment Division. This Division is recognised throughout the UK as one of the leaders in consultancy work in the estuarine and coastal environment and has particular experience specific to the proposed project in Falmouth.

Falmouth Harbour Commissioner, Captain Mark Sansom, said: "Assessing the tenders has been a stringent and exacting task. It is essential to award the tender to a well respected and experienced company who will carry out the Environmental Impact Assessment with great diligence - providing essential information in relation to the environmental impact of dredging a deeper channel to Falmouth Docks to accommodate larger cruise liners in the future."

Tenders were sought through the European Journal, and Royal Haskoning stood out as one of only 30 companies in the UK to reach the necessary level

of quality to become “Registered Environmental Impact Assessors” with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment.

Mark Sansom added: “We are delighted by the expertise of Royal Haskoning, and now look forward to the environmental impact assessment taking place throughout the year, with a draft report due to be available early in 2008. “Importantly, at our annual Public Meeting, due to take place at the National Maritime Museum on 29th March, we will be asking Royal Haskoning to detail their work programme and to meet with all interested parties to ensure that any local concerns about this project are fully explored and taken into consideration. The Commissioners are acutely aware of the sensitivity of the marine environment in Falmouth and have specified a robust EIA to ensure the environmental effects of necessary dredging works are known and fully understood. Any future decisions will be informed by this study.”

The study is being jointly funded by the South West of England Regional Development Agency (RDA) and the Objective One Programme for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Stephen Bohane, Head of Operations for the RDA in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, confirmed the importance to the regional economy of attracting more, larger cruise ships from the global cruise market into Falmouth, and added: “These environmental studies are essential to investigating whether long term plans to develop Falmouth Docks and Harbour will be possible.

“We welcome the open and transparent approach being taken by the Commissioners and applaud the wider consultations with the local community, including the opportunity to question Royal Haskoning”.

Mike Reynolds, Port Operations Director at Falmouth said: “Successful completion of this Environmental Impact Assessment is a vital step for the future of the port.”

Ends – March 6, 2007

Editor's notes:

The South West of England Regional Development Agency and the Objective One Partnership for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly will jointly fund the £410,000 project, with the SWRDA also agreeing to a further funding package of £41,000 towards an additional £117,000 environmental study being carried out by the Docks.

Royal Haskoning's Project Team includes:

HR Wallingford (hydraulic and sedimentary studies)

Cornwall Historic Environment Service (archaeology)

Plymouth Marine Sciences Partnership (sediment contamination and ecotoxicology)

SeaStar Survey and Natural History Museum (marine survey data acquisition and sample analysis)

Cornwall Environmental Consultants (landscape)

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