SMEC to Deliver Free-Flow Motorway in Adelaide, Australia

22 February 2016

The Gateway South Consortium, comprised of the Design Joint Venture (SMEC, Jacobs and KBR) and Construction Joint Venture (Fulton Hogan and Laing O’Rourke), has been engaged by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure to design and construct the A$620 million Darlington Upgrade Project in Adelaide, Australia.

This project forms part of the Adelaide North-South Corridor Upgrade, a key component in South Australia’s ongoing transport infrastructure strategy. This 78 km north-south freight route will be upgraded to eliminate bottlenecks and provide non-stop road links to connect rapidly expanding industrial and residential growth areas throughout Adelaide.

The Darlington Upgrade Project will comprise the upgrade of 3.3 km of Main South Road, including a non-stop motorway between the Southern Expressway and Tonsley Boulevard requiring grade separations at five intersections. SMEC (in association with its Joint Venture partners) will be responsible for design coordination, traffic modelling, traffic engineering, bridge and road design, drainage, and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) design.

A key challenge of the project is overcoming the complexity of a diverse mix of traffic users and high traffic volumes, combined with mixed residential, industrial, institutional and commercial land use along the corridor. Clever and innovative engineering is required to overcome these constraints in such a heavily developed brownfield environment.

SMEC has enjoyed much success along the Adelaide North-South Corridor, having delivered: the A$564 million Northern Expressway (NEXY); A$842 million South Road Superway; and a major planning study in 2014 for the Darlington Upgrade Project, which ultimately enabled the State and Federal funding to make the current Darlington Upgrade Project possible. SMEC has also prepared tender designs for the $407 million Southern Expressway Duplication and the A$896 million Torrens Road to River Torrens Project (in an alliance arrangement).

The key to SMEC’s continued success on the project is the ability to maintain core relationships and to align the Company with winning contractors and consortia. Successful delivery is the combined
result of SMEC’s high-calibre specialist design personnel, attention to design quality and timeliness, and the efficiencies that result from a flat management structure with Australian ownership.

SMEC’s success in securing the Darlington Upgrade Project, and the Company’s prominent role in bringing the multibillion dollar Adelaide North-South Corridor to life, will further enhance SMEC’s reputation as one of the leading infrastructure consultancies in Adelaide.

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