

Media Release



Mott MacDonald, SMEC and KBR design joint venture wins top global award for Sydney Metro Northwest project

Australia's first driverless metro has won a top global award for best rail project.

Date: 14 September 2020

The US-based Engineering News Record (ENR) Global Best Projects Awards focus on the challenges, risks and rewards of designing and constructing around the world and recognise the project teams behind outstanding design and construction efforts each year.

The Mott MacDonald, SMEC and KBR design joint venture (JV) team's contribution to the AU\$7.3 billion Sydney Metro Northwest project has earned the 2020 ENR Global Best Rail Project award.

The project, delivered by the New South Wales state government, is the first stage of Sydney Metro, Australia's biggest public transport project.

The JV delivered the detailed design for eight new metro stations which included three underground stations, three new open-cut suburban stations and two new elevated stations. It was also responsible for train stabling maintenance facilities, 36 kilometres of new metro track, overhead power systems and precinct civil works and car parks.

Building information modelling (BIM) was successfully applied to this major transport infrastructure project and, by adopting BIM, the JV minimised cost and schedule risk and enhanced constructability.

The innovative design developed by the JV reduced the use of raw construction material and labour on-site in favour of prefabricated elements, which in turn, increased the efficiency and sustainability of the project both in construction and in future maintenance operations.

Adrian Jones, Mott MacDonald's Managing Director for Australia, said: "We are incredibly proud to have been awarded this global honour. Sydney Metro Northwest truly demonstrates what can be accomplished when we connect our thinking between global expertise and local knowledge. We thank everyone who played a part in delivering this project which has helped lay the foundations for a new era in public transport in Australia."

Wayne Nolan, KBR's Vice President, Infrastructure Services Australia, said: "Receiving ENR's 2020 award for best rail project is a great achievement for our customers and joint venture partners. As we continue to deliver creative solutions and services that enhance our society, Sydney Metro Northwest is a great example of us living our purpose and delivering for our customers. We look forward to continuing to provide solutions for transportation infrastructure across Australia."

James Phillis, CEO SMEC Australia, said: "The Sydney Metro Northwest is not only the first metro train system in Australia, it is also Australia's first fully automated passenger service. Over 70 years on from our founding in the iconic Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric Scheme, SMEC is proud to continue our legacy in another innovative and ground-breaking infrastructure project that is making a difference to Australians."

The winners of ENR's Global Best Project Awards will be celebrated at a virtual ceremony this month.

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About SMEC:

SMEC is a global engineering, management and development consultancy delivering innovative solutions for our clients and partners. Leveraging our 70-year history of delivering nation-building infrastructure, we provide technical expertise and advanced engineering services to resolve complex challenges across the project lifecycle, from initial concept, feasibility, planning and design through to construction, commissioning, and operation and maintenance.

In 2016, SMEC joined the Surbana Jurong Group, which is headquartered in Singapore and has a global workforce of over 16,500 employees across 120 offices in more than 40 countries in Asia, Australia, UK, the Middle East, Africa and the Americas.

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