

Media Release



SMEC strengthens Solomon Islands' intermodal connectivity through innovative design

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SMEC has been engaged by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development (MID) to design and supervise the construction of selected roads and wharves under the Solomon Islands Sustainable Transport Infrastructure Improvement Program (STIIP).

Project Manager Graham Jones said SMEC was awarded the work because of its innovative and competitive bid which reflected both the aspirations of the MID and the challenges faced by the Central Projects Implementation Unit (CPIU).

This includes the use of a modular and standardized approach to bridge design in order to simplify fabrication and constructability. SMEC also recommended several additional bridge sites for upgrading, which would further enhance the economic and development benefits of the Mberande – Aola Road upgrading.

“The first two months have been exciting and challenging but we are confident that the close promotion and support by MID for a strong ‘One Team Together’ approach will lead to successful outcomes.

“Ahead of the Pacific Games which Solomon Islands will host in 2023, STIIP is an integral part of the Government’s commitment to improve infrastructure and intermodal connectivity in the Solomon Islands.”

Transport infrastructure in the Solomon Islands suffers from lack of climate-resilient roads built to high quality and a transport network that is not consistently connected.

With a focus on asset resilience and sustainability, SMEC is screening subprojects for climate change disaster risk during the design phase and incorporating structural and non-structural interventions to ensure that designs can withstand extreme climatic events without sustaining damage.

“This program addresses significant challenges for the dispersed population of Solomon Islands in terms of access to services and economic opportunities.”

Solomon Islands’ road network totals approximately 1,523km, of which only 6% is sealed with the remainder being made up of gravel, coral, or earth-surfaced unbound and unsealed roads. Some areas within the two major islands of Guadalcanal and Malaita have no road access.

SMEC will play a lead role in preparing for the upgrading of 38km of urban and rural roads and two wharves, and supervise selected infrastructure works on land and maritime sector sub-projects. In addition, SMEC will act as the Engineer’s Representative in the supervision of MID road maintenance contracts.

“STIIP will benefit our population by providing much improved accessibility and mobility through better and more reliable transport. This in turn will contribute to stimulating growth in our domestic industries, such as agriculture and regional trade, as well as expand socioeconomic opportunities for our rural and urban communities,” said Solomon Islands’ Mike Qaqara, MID CPIU Acting Director.

Image 1: East Honiara Highway Lot 1

Image 2: Malaita North Road



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About SMEC:

SMEC is a global engineering, management and development consultancy delivering technical excellence and specialist solutions to our clients, partners and communities. In 2016 SMEC joined the Surbana Jurong Group, which is headquartered in Singapore and has a global workforce of 16,000 employees across 120 offices in more than 40 countries in Asia, Australia, UK, the Middle East, Africa and the Americas.

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