



Egis Projects to design, implement and operate the ETC interoperability system for the Irish toll motorway network

In July 2004, the Irish National Roads Authority (NRA), with the assistance of the consultancy firm, JacobsBabtie, launched a tender offer to select an "Information Exchange Agent" or IEA and has just awarded the contract to Egis Projects. The role of the IEA will be to design and supply, on a turnkey basis, the central system that will enable interoperability between the various electronic toll collection systems in Ireland. Egis Projects will maintain the system and manage the interoperability service on behalf of the NRA for an initial period of 5 years. The central system will ensure a continuous exchange of ETC transactions data between all toll facility operators in Ireland.

In addition to Egis Projects, several other Groupe Egis companies, such as Transroute International and Isis, are also involved in the delivery of the project. Isis will be responsible for the project's technical management while Transroute International will contribute its expertise to the operation of the service.

At the end of 2004, Ireland's road network was 5400 km. long and included 190 km. of motorways and 285 km. of expressways. To keep pace with the country's fast economic growth, the NRA initiated in 1998 an ambitious policy of improving existing roads and building new ones. In addition, in 2000, the NRA launched a major program to build more than 300 km. of toll motorways. This program is being carried out under a Public Private Partnership (PPP) framework and represents an overall investment of more than €1.5bn. By the end of 2005, Ireland will have five motorways in service (including one tunnel and one toll bridge) and at the end of the program, in 2010, at least twelve toll motorways will be in service. Each toll operator will have to subscribe to the service provided by the IEA. In order to avoid the difficulties that have arisen in some other European countries, the NRA has insisted on ETC interoperability for all toll operators, while leaving the private sector considerable leeway in terms of technical solutions.

Egis Projects, a subsidiary of Groupe Egis, is highly specialized in the integration and operation of electronic toll collection systems. The company is already present in ETC projects in Australia, Korea, France, Greece, the Philippines, and the UK. This further success enables Egis Projects to strengthen its global leadership in the field of electronic toll collection interoperability.

Groupe Egis is a subsidiary of the Caisse des Dépôts Group, with €442 million of output in 2004 and 4000 employees worldwide. It is one of the world's leading companies in transport infrastructure engineering, providing full service solutions comprising engineering, major project development and the operating of motorway concessions. At the end of 2004, its 13 operating companies (8 in Europe, 3 in Australia, 2 in Asia) had nearly 1000 km. of

motorways under contract, 690 km. of which are already in service With this motorway network, Egis has become the leading French operator of motorways outside France.

For more news, see www.groupegis.com

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