



Transroute International operates and maintains the Dublin Port Tunnel

In June 2005, the Irish National Roads Authority (NRA), with the assistance of the consultancy firm JacobsBabtie, launched a tender to select a Tunnel Operator for the Dublin Port Tunnel. The service contract has just been awarded to Transroute International, a subsidiary of Groupe Egis, for an initial period of 5 years with a possible renewal of 2 years. The total contract amount comprises €15 million.

The Dublin Port Tunnel is a flagship project in Ireland’s National Development Plan and is one of the largest civil engineering contracts ever undertaken in Ireland. It is also the first public contract for road infrastructure operations managed by the private sector in Ireland. Unlike a PPP contract, the Dublin Port Tunnel contract neither includes the construction nor the financing of the infrastructure, but only its operation and maintenance. The Dublin Port Tunnel is currently under construction by a contractor working for the Dublin City Council. The funding for construction is being provided by the National Roads Authority.

The Dublin Port Tunnel will provide a direct link between the M1 Dublin-Belfast Motorway and the Dublin Port. The primary aim of the Dublin Port Tunnel is to ease traffic flow to and from the Dublin Port and to reduce the number of Heavy Goods Vehicles (“HGVs”) using surface streets in the historic centre of Dublin. The Dublin Port Tunnel will also generate other benefits for Dublin City such as the continued development of Dublin Port and the improvement of the City centre’s environment. At the opening date, expected in 2006, it is estimated that the tunnel will be used by over 12,000 HGVs per day and will constitute 60% of the total traffic. The tunnel exits over the Tolka River at its South extremity.

The following two figures provide a North-South cross-section of the tunnel and an aerial view of the future infrastructure:





The Dublin Port Tunnel is a 4.5 km twin tube tunnel. Each tunnel is equipped with emergency facilities by way of access ways between tunnel bores, lay-bys, emergency phone network and other services. All services are provided via operations buildings positioned at the northern and southern ends of the tunnel.

The service contract will have two phases: pre-operational and operational phases. In operating the Dublin Port Tunnel, Transroute will deliver the following services:

- mobilisation of the organisation required to operate and maintain the Dublin Port Tunnel,
- coordination of the training of staff for the emergency services and other relevant authorities,
- liaison and co-ordination with emergency services and other relevant authorities,
- development of plans for the operation and maintenance of Dublin Port Tunnel,
- operation and maintenance (including inspections) of the Dublin Port Tunnel and associated infrastructure,
- traffic and safety management, and
- collection of tolls on the Dublin Port Tunnel toll plaza, which will involve the management of ten lanes with a combination of manual payment, automatic coin machines and electronic toll collection (ETC).

Transroute International will deliver the services through **Transroute Tunnel Operations Ltd.**, an Irish company specifically created for this purpose.

In addition to Transroute International, other Group Egis companies, such as Scetauroute and ISIS, are also involved in the delivery of the project. ISIS will carry out traffic studies while Scetauroute (Tunnel Department) will contribute its expertise to the commissioning of the infrastructure.

The Dublin Port Tunnel is the second success of Egis Projects and its subsidiary Transroute International with NRA in Ireland in 2005. Egis Projects was selected in July 2005 as a service provider for the "Information Exchange Agent" or "IEA" to design, supply and operate

the central system that will enable interoperability between the various electronic toll collection systems in Ireland. The IEA system is in operation since December 2005.

Transroute International, a subsidiary of Groupe Egis, is highly specialized in the operation and maintenance of motorways and tunnels. The company is already present through its subsidiaries in Europe (France, Greece, Poland, Portugal and the UK) and outside Europe (Australia, Korea and the Philippines). This further success enables Transroute International to strengthen its global leadership in the field of motorway operation and maintenance worldwide.

Groupe Egis is a subsidiary of the Caisse des Dépôts Group, with €375 million revenue in 2005 and 3800 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 operation of motorway concessions. At the end of 2005, its 13 operating companies (8 in Europe, 3 in Australia, 2 in Asia) had nearly 1000 km of motorways under contract of which 800 km are currently in service. With this motorway network, Egis is one of the leading French operator of motorways outside France.

For more news, see www.groupegis.com

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