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11 July 2011

NEWS RELEASE

Lagan Construction propose to offer local jobs

THE firm earmarked to carry out the essential maintenance and improvements at Guernsey Airport will be looking to recruit staff locally once it has been awarded a contract.

Public Services Minister Deputy Bernard Flouquet said Lagan Construction had confirmed to the Department that it planned to advertise for local staff. The company had already held open days in the island, before submitting a tender for the works, and had also had separate meetings with local sub-contractors and suppliers.

Deputy Flouquet said the company subsequently identified several areas in its tender submission where local staff could be involved. These included various construction jobs, as well as security roles.

More specialised tasks, such as the replacement of the airfield navigational aids and ground lighting, would be done by expert subcontractors from off-island. However local firms could be engaged for aspects such as haulage and small plant and equipment hire.

Lagan had not yet begun recruiting or appointing suppliers for these roles, either here or off-island, as the contract had not yet been confirmed.

The States will be asked to confirm Lagan's appointment this month, but no contract will be agreed until the project has received planning permission. The earliest that could happen is October.

'Lagan are in an unenviable position at the moment. They are being asked to give various assurances, but they don't themselves have a contract yet,' he said.

'What we stressed to all tenderers was that we would favour the use of local labour. Lagan has given every indication they will be looking to recruit locally.'

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Notes to editors:-

- Guernsey Airport opened in 1939, and today provides a gateway to the island for nearly one million business or leisure travellers each year.
- In 2009, the States approved a major programme of essential maintenance and improvements, aimed at equipping the current airport to serve the island for the next 30 years.
- The existing runway was last resurfaced in 1974, and would normally be expected to last between 15 and 30 years. Other areas of the airport are of similar age - in some cases older - and also in need of replacement. These include the concrete apron areas where the aircraft park; the airfield ground lighting, which is now obsolete; and the entire drainage system. The taxiways leading from the aprons to the runway also require overlaying, levelling, and realignment.
- Public Services has selected Lagan Construction, one of the UK's leading airfield construction specialists as its preferred bidder, for the project. The company, which has completed more 35 airfield projects worldwide in the past 10 years, was one of four firms invited to tender for the contract.

About Lagan Construction

- **Lagan Construction** consistently delivers innovative, high quality civil engineering and building solutions internationally to public and private sector clients through a network of local offices. Lagan Construction's specialist teams have expertise in a range of sectors including roads, airports, water, defence, marine, power and rail, where they undertake infrastructure, capital and maintenance projects through a variety of procurement routes.

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