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26 January 2011

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Preferred contractor identified for essential airport maintenance**

PUBLIC Services has selected one of the UK's leading airfield construction specialists as its preferred bidder for the essential maintenance and improvements at Guernsey Airport.

Lagan Construction, which has completed more 35 airfield projects worldwide in the past 10 years, was one of four firms invited to tender for the contract last July.

Work on the project, which was approved by the States in 2009, is scheduled to begin this summer and will take around two years to complete. It includes the reconstruction of the Airport's runway and other hard surfaces, and the replacement or refurbishment of the drainage system, airfield lighting and other key operational systems.

Following its appointment as preferred contractor, Lagan Construction has now entered into a three month value engineering phase with Public Services. This provides an opportunity to investigate potential cost and time savings through the scheduling and detailed planning of the work.

Public Services Minister Deputy Bernard Flouquet said the quality of the tenders received had been very high, and having four firms in the running for the contract had ensured the successful bid was competitively priced.

The tenders were assessed against pre-agreed criteria, including quality of submission, price, and proposed use of local labour. Lagan Construction's bid scored the highest.

The States will be asked to approve the contractor and budget later this year, with a planned start date in August.

Deputy Flouquet said the final budget would not be known until the completion of the value engineering phase. However he was confident that, including contingency costs and allowances for inflation, it would be well within the £81 million estimate approved by the States in 2009.

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‘The essential maintenance and improvements approved by the States in 2009 are vital for the long-term future of Guernsey Airport. The budget approved by the States was a pre-tender estimate, and now that we have been through the full tendering process I am confident that we will be able to successfully deliver this project within the budget allocated,’ he said.

Subject to successful conclusion of negotiations and final approval by the States, Lagan Construction will be responsible for delivering the project on time and to budget. As main contractor, it will supervise the work of other firms that it will engage to carry out specialist elements of the works.

These include the ground lighting installation, upgrade of navigational aids, and the new drainage system.

Deputy Flouquet said it was probably the largest and most complex engineering project the island had ever undertaken.

‘The urgent repair of the runway is only one aspect of the work required, and represents only around a third of the budget. We are also installing a completely new drainage system, replacing the concrete apron areas, installing new ground lighting and upgrading other key systems.

‘It is therefore essential that we appoint a lead contractor with the relevant expertise, and in Lagan Construction we have one of the most experienced airfield construction companies.’

Once the construction phase begins, work on the runway will primarily be carried out at night, while the airport is closed, and will be reinstated prior to reopening at 6am each morning. That element of the project is expected to last around seven months.

Measures will be in place to minimise disruption from the works at night. This will include best practice procedures on the handling of materials and operation of equipment, and fencing to reduce noise and light impacts.

The reconstruction of the concrete apron areas, where aircraft park while passengers board and disembark, will be carried out in phases. That work will take place during the day, while the airport remains operational.

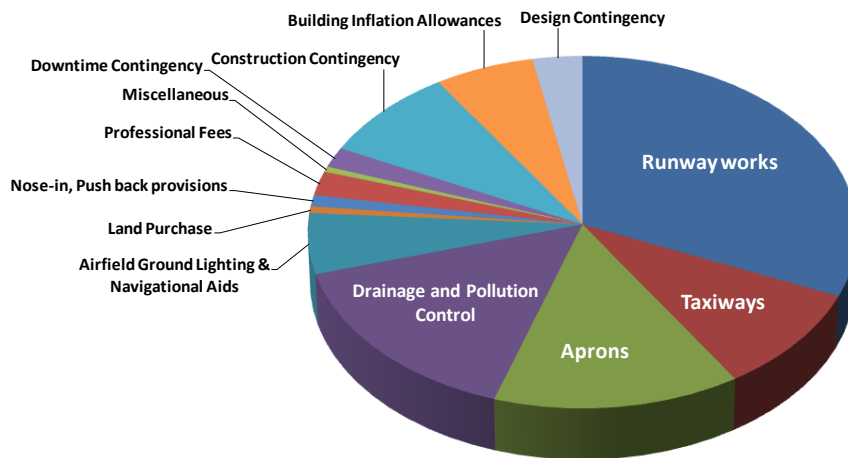
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Other elements of the project will be scheduled to coincide with the works on either the runway or aprons, as appropriate.

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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.



- **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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