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27 May 2011

NEWS RELEASE

Airport 2040 planning application submitted

PUBLIC Services has submitted a formal planning application to the Environment Department for the essential maintenance and improvements at Guernsey Airport.

The project represents the largest development at Guernsey Airport since it opened in 1939, and will equip the current airfield to continue serving the island for the next 30 years. If planning permission and final States approval are granted later this year, then contractors will begin mobilising this autumn.

The work will include resurfacing the current runway, and re-positioning it 120m west, and creating longer safety areas at either end of the airfield. The concrete apron areas adjacent to the terminal, where aircraft park, will also be replaced, and a completely new drainage system installed.

The existing taxiways, which link the aprons to the runway, also require resurfacing and realignment, and new ground lighting and navigational aids will be installed. The approach lights to the east and west of the airport will also move.

The works are expected to take around two years to complete, and cost around £80 million.

The planning application includes a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which looks at various aspects of the works both during the construction phase and longer term.

These include the potential impacts on noise and light levels, air quality, traffic, and the local ecology and landscape character.

Public Services Minister Deputy Bernard Flouquet said the project was now on schedule to begin later this year.

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Airfield specialist Lagan Construction, which has completed a number of similar projects, has already been selected as the Department's preferred contractor to carry out the works. This follows a full tendering process last year.

States Members will now be asked to approve the final budget for the project in July.

'We aim to sign the contract with Lagan Construction this autumn. It is important that we do that because the fixed price in their tender, which was submitted last October, is valid for a year,' he said.

'We are currently on track to meet that deadline, which will help avoid any unnecessary delay and additional costs. This is a vital, strategic project, which will maintain the airport's current operational capability and help safeguard the island's air links. Therefore the sooner we can complete it the better.'

The report that will go to the States in July, for approval of the tender and contractor, will be published next month.

The Environment Department will publish the application for public consultation in due course.

ENDS

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.

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- 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.

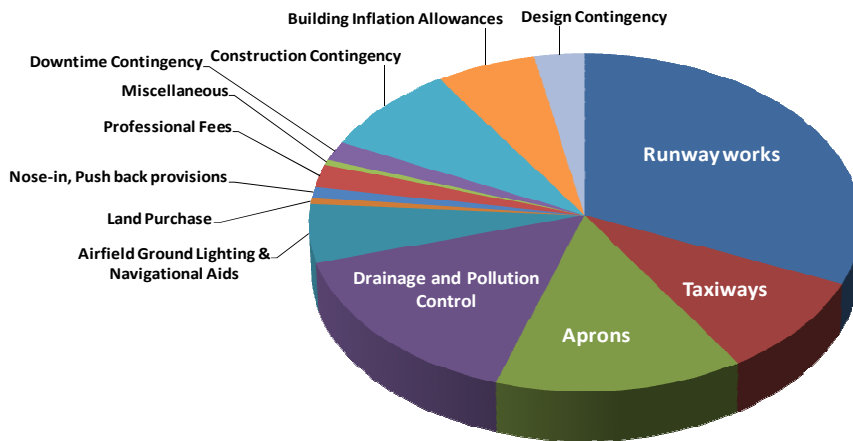


Figure 1 - Breakdown of £80.9m pre-tender estimate approved by States in 2009

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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