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# Tramlink Nottingham selected as preferred bidder for city tram extension

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Work began today on a five month programme to finalise details of the high-profile contract to deliver a major extension to Nottingham's tram system.

Nottingham City Council has announced that the Tramlink Nottingham consortium has been chosen as the preferred bidder for the NET Phase Two project which will provide two new lines and expand the existing network by 17.5 km.

Tramlink Nottingham comprises three major international companies, two leading equity investment partners and a top flight local transport operator, and the organisation's Chairman Roger Harrison said: "We are delighted to have been selected as preferred bidder. Our focus now will be on working with the City Council to ensure NET Phase Two can be introduced at the earliest opportunity.

"We have put together an extremely strong partnership and we are confident of being able to create a network which will not only be efficient and effective in terms of meeting the city's transport needs but which will also help to take Nottingham's international status to a new level."

The Consortium includes Alstom, VINCI PLC, Keolis and Wellglade (owners of local bus operator's Trent Barton) as industry partners and Meridiam and OFI InfraVia as financial investors.

The contract for the 23-year concession project is due to be finalised in late summer, at which point Tramlink Nottingham would immediately take over the operation and maintenance of the existing 14.5km line one system. Construction of the new lines could begin by the end of the year whilst passenger services across the whole network could be fully operational by the end of 2014.

Roger Harrison explained: "The construction phase will present significant technical challenges and our partnership with VINCI LTD, means we are more than able to marshal all the resources necessary in order to provide a first class, dependable physical infrastructure.

"Alstom will draw on its expertise in infrastructure and turnkey projects for the construction of the new track, power, signalling and the supply and maintenance of 22 Citadis trams as well as the maintenance of the existing 15 Phase One trams.

"Meanwhile in Keolis (UK) and Trent Barton, our consortium has partners with proven track records in operating efficient, effective and reliable transport systems – ones which consistently attract high passenger satisfaction ratings. The contract is Keolis' first tram project in the UK and reinforces the group's position as the world's largest tram operator.

"We are joined by our two well-established financial equity partners; Meridiam is a leading long term infrastructure fund committed to investing in the project over its life and InfraVia is an infrastructure fund whose main sponsors are mutual insurance companies"

He added: "The project will be a major boost to the local economy and we are looking forward to working with the City Council, stakeholders and other agencies to ensure we maximise local job, training and business opportunities.

"We now move onto the next stage of the tender process and very much hope that at the end of it we can quickly start work on delivering a tram system which fully meets Nottingham's aspirations."

## NOTES TO EDITORS - Tramlink Nottingham Comprises:

### **Vinci PLC (Vinci Investments Limited, VINCI Construction UK Limited)**

A world leader in concessions and construction with a regional presence throughout the UK where it incorporates Norwest Holst and Taylor Woodrow. Recent UK contracts include the upgrade of Docklands Light Railway and the redevelopment of King's Cross station. The company is also bidding for Crossrail work. More locally, school building contracts in Sheffield and Derby, student accommodation at Nottingham Trent University Clifton campus and the new Nottingham Station car park.

### **Alstom (Alstom UK Holdings Ltd, Alstom Transport)**

#### *Alstom Transport's Infrastructure activity*

In fulfilling this contract, Alstom will draw on its expertise in the area of infrastructure and turnkey systems. This activity includes electrification of railway lines, track laying, modernization of existing lines and electromechanical systems for new railway lines, tramways and metros. Alstom has already electrified more than 10,000 kilometres and has laid more than 2,000 kilometres of track. The company has been awarded large-scale contracts for Singapore's automatic metro, China's high-speed Shi-Tai line and "High Speed 1" Paris-London link. Moreover, Alstom has supplied a tramway system to Bordeaux (France), and is currently building in Dubai the first full tramway line.

### **Alstom Citadis**

To date, 1,517 Citadis have been ordered by 36 cities across the world and more than 60 other cities have a tramway project scheduled for the next few years. This type of modern tramway is becoming a must in urban transport policy because they make it possible to offer sustainable mobility, to rethink and modernize urban space, to preserve architectural heritage and contribute to city growth.

### **Keolis (Keolis (UK) Limited)**

With operations in 12 countries worldwide and 47,200 employees, Keolis is responsible for extensive range of multi-modal public transport systems handling some 2.2 billion passenger journeys per year. Keolis is a partner in 4 train operating companies in the UK and is also the world's leading tram operator.

### **Wellglade (Wellglade Limited) Trent Barton**

Wellglade own Trent Barton which is the UK's largest independent bus operator. The award winning company operates a network of routes in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire.

### **Meridiam (Meridiam Infrastructure Finance S.a.r.l)**

Meridiam Infrastructure Managers ("Meridiam") is a leading international fund manager managing funds focused exclusively on investing in equity and junior capital in Public Private Partnership assets within OECD member countries with a strategic focus on Greenfield assets in Europe and North America. Meridiam currently has €1.2bn under management and a team of 30 investment professionals spread across Paris, New York and Toronto.

### **InfraVia (OFI InfraVia)**

The InfraVia Fund is private investment fund with core business in long term investments in infrastructure and renewable energy. InfraVia is managed by OFI InfraVia, subsidiary of the OFI Group. ([www.ofi-infravia.com](http://www.ofi-infravia.com)).

## ABOUT OFI INFRAVIA

InfraVia Fund is managed by OFI InfraVia, an asset management company subsidiary of the OFI group and dedicated on the infrastructure sector.

Launched in 2008, the InfraVia Fund is positioned as a long term infrastructure investor in all infrastructure sectors (transportation, energy, utilities, telecom, social infrastructure ...). With a size around 200 M€, the fund is focussed on the Euro zone and on assets generating regular and long term revenues.

## ABOUT OFI GROUP

With €47,8 Billion assets under management at the end of December 2010, OFI Asset Management employ 295 staff, including 140 dedicated to investment management. The OFI Group aims to offer a complete range of products and services to european institutional investors.

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