

Preferred Bidder for Dredging and Reclamation of 18km Fehmarnbelt Tunnel

Femern A/S, a subsidiary of the Danish state-owned Sund & Bælt Holding A/S, has announced its intention to award a substantial contract related to the construction of a tunnel connecting Denmark and Germany to the Fehmarn Belt Contractors consortium including Royal Boskalis Westminster N.V., Hochtief AG, Ed Züblin AG and Van Oord. The Fehmarnbelt Fixed Link will connect Denmark and Germany and will be the world's longest immersed road and rail tunnel. The fixed immersed tunnel link across the Fehmarnbelt will be more than 18km long and carry a four-lane motorway alongside a twin track-electrified railway.

The total budget for the Fehmarnbelt link construction is DKR45 billion (approximately EUR 6 billion) and the value of the contract to Boskalis is approximately EUR 300 million.

The Fehmarnbelt Fixed Link tender consisted of four contracts: the tunnel north, the tunnel south, tunnel dredging and reclamation and the tunnel portals and ramps. The Fehmarn Belt Contractors consortium is the preferred bidder for the tunnel dredging & reclamation contract. The contract is conditional to obtaining the outstanding environmental permits that have yet to be issued by the German authorities. These permits are expected to be issued at earliest in 2017.

The activity scope for Boskalis together with Van Oord includes the dredging of a tunnel trench in the seabed over a distance of 16 kilometres with the use of various types of dredging equipment including trailing suction hopper dredgers, backhoes and grab dredgers. The dredged material will be reused to create a new recreational nature reserve area on the Danish side of the Fehmarnbelt. The consortium will also construct a working harbour where the tunnel contractors will construct a tunnel fabrication yard where the tunnel sections will be cast before being floated out to sea for installation.

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