

Controversial M3 Motorway Opens

One of Ireland's major motorways, Clonee to North of Kells M3 Motorway, opened to traffic on 4 June.

The scheme comprises 61km of dual carriageway/motorway, with 3.8 km of two-lane, single carriageway and 15km of link roads, both single and dual carriageway. The scheme also included new toll plazas at Blackbull and Grange and 34 over bridges and 29 under bridges.

The PPP contract was awarded by the NRA to Eurolink M3 Ltd, a consortium of Spanish company Cintra Concesiones (part of the Ferrovial Group) and Irish company SIAC Construction. The detailed design and construction of the works was subcontracted to the M3 Joint Venture, a consortium of Ferrovial Agroman and

SIAC Construction. Atkins and joint venture partner, Prointec of Spain, were appointed as technical advisor to Eurolink M3 Ltd. Atkins-Prointec's main tasks included site supervision, quality auditing and detailed design reviews.

Richard Neuling, technical director at Atkins, said that Atkins-Prointec worked closely with Eurolink M3 on the scheme for the past three years, providing specialist technical advice and ensuring that a high standard of construction quality was maintained. Prointec had 12 full-time staff working on the construction of this project over the past three years.

Atkins has extensive experience of NRA PPP projects as lead designers on both the M50 PPP and N6 Galway to Ballinasloe PPP schemes.