



## Atkins advance transport projects in Dublin and Johannesburg

The M50 is now opened to three lanes from the M1 interchange to the Sandymount interchange, with a fourth lane also open between interchanges. Recent months have also seen the M1/M50 interchange opened to traffic on a free-flow arrangement, according to **Atkins Ireland**, designers to the construction consortium on the project.

The N2 and N3 interchanges are progressing well and are expected to be fully open to traffic before the end of 2010, the company says. Richard Neuling Chartered Engineer, project manager, **Atkins** M50 PPP Scheme, says that the clearest measure of the project's success is the fact that, despite its unquestionable status as Ireland's most complex road scheme on a site with up to 100,000 vehicles passing through each day, it remains within programme and on budget. "Standing back from the day-to-day issues and looking at it objectively, the success of the project so far is a huge achievement, both for us and our clients."

Meanwhile in Johannesburg, **Atkins** is responsible for the design of the Gautrain scheme, South Africa's first high speed modern rail line, which opened three days before the World Cup kicked off. It is the biggest civil engineering project in Africa as well as the largest underground railway presently under construction in the southern hemisphere, according to **Atkins**, which was responsible for the design of 15km of new tunnels beneath central Johannesburg, three new underground stations, a new tunnel portal at Marlboro, seven emergency intervention shafts, designs for the permanent way and alignment for the entire route. The project has had to overcome many challenges, including the availability of local materials, employment laws, ground conditions and budget restraints. In keeping with the all round, ground-breaking nature of the project, **Atkins** developed an innovative and low carbon ventilation approach to alleviate the need to air condition public spaces within the underground stations. This approach will deliver a carbon emission saving of 9,200 tonnes per annum.

