

NEWS RELEASE

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Opening of the M3 Clonee to North of Kells section of the M3 Motorway

Last Friday 4th of June 2010 marked the opening of one of the major motorways in Ireland, the Clonee to North of Kells M3 Motorway. This scheme forms part of the overall proposed East/West strategic road corridors connecting Dublin and the East Coast to the midlands, West and North-West of Ireland.

The scheme comprises 61km of dual carriageway/ motorway, with 3.8 km of 2 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 overbridges and 29 underbridges.

Nationally, the scheme will provide a strategic transport link as part of the national road network along the N3 joining Dublin through Belturbet and Enniskillen to Donegal on the west coast. Regionally the scheme will facilitate the removal of heavy traffic from local and regional roads, enhancing safety, reducing travel times and traffic congestion and reducing travel costs while enabling and assisting economic development along this strategic corridor. Locally, the new motorway bypasses Kells, Navan and Dunscaughlin, thereby removing several bottlenecks for traffic on this route and improving the environment in these areas. The M3 scheme has been completed under the National Roads Authority's (NRA) National Roads Programme and is a key part of the plan to upgrade the overall national road network for the country.

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.. Atkins has extensive experience of NRA PPP projects as lead designers on both the M50PPP and N6 Galway to Ballinasloe PPP schemes, in addition to the M3 project.

Tom O'Malley, Managing Director of Atkins said 'I am delighted to mark the opening of the Clonee to North of Kells section of the M3 Motorway. Motorways have become the backbone of Ireland's road network. They are the lifelines of the country, making an invaluable contribution to our business and economic needs. That is why the NRA are investing in a safe, reliable and sustainable motorway network for the 21st Century - expanding the network where necessary and making smarter use of the motorways. This new motorway will ease notorious bottlenecks and improve safety."

Richard Neuling, Technical Director at Atkins, said: 'I am delighted to be able to commend the efforts of all involved who have delivered the M3 scheme to budget and on time. Atkins-Prointec have worked closely with Eurolink M3 on this scheme for the past three years, providing specialist technical advice and ensuring that a high standard of construction quality was maintained. The new motorway will ensure safer journeys for local drivers and long distance traffic."

The scheme is a first class road facility that will significantly benefit the region. As a key element of the inter-urban network it will improve road transport connections between the West and the East of the country.

Atkins-Pointec had 12 full-time staff working on the construction of this project over the past three years.

For more information on Atkins please contact **Fidelma Lucey, Marketing Manager** on **01 8909000** or email **fidelma.lucey@atkinsglobal.com**

About Atkins

Atkins is a multidisciplinary organisation that is committed to sustainable design. The simplest articulation of what we do is "[Plan, Design, and Enable](#)". Atkins are leaders in Roads, Engineering, Architecture, Quantity Surveying, Water, Environmental and Transportation Planning with a large no. of private and public sector clients.

Atkins is one of the world's leading providers of professionally based consulting and support services employing over 16,000 people worldwide.

Atkins employs more than 150 staff in Ireland with offices in Dublin, Cork, Galway and Belfast.