

PRESS RELEASE

Four leading acoustics firms win contract to noise map Northern Ireland for EU END

8 June 2007: The Northern Ireland Department of the Environment has appointed a consortium of four firms to provide noise maps to deal with road, rail, aircraft and industrial noise across the whole region. The team is led by iSoniq and includes independent acoustics consultant Hepworth Acoustics, leading Irish environmental firm AWN Consulting and Bureau Veritas. The completed project will fulfil Northern Ireland's requirements for noise maps to meet the EU's Environmental Noise Directive.

"This is an exciting project because its outcome is fulfilment of the first stage of the EU Environmental Noise Directive for the whole of Northern Ireland," says Simon Shilton of iSoniq. "That is a major achievement and we are very pleased to have pulled together a successful team, working with partners we know and trust."

Because of the large scale of the project, which is valued at around half a million pounds, tenders were invited under the OJEC procurement process. The iSoniq-led consortium won the contract in competition with eight other tenders.

The project will produce noise maps focused on the urban conurbation of Belfast and other major noise sources. The maps will include major roads, the airports - Belfast International Airport and George Best Belfast City Airport, major railways and industrial sites. The project's phases are data gathering, site surveys, followed by the noise calculations, production of the final noise maps and preparation of the analysis for submission to the EU Commission. Delivery is scheduled for June 2007.

ENDS

About the consortium

iSoniq is a joint venture company of Acustica Limited and Extrium Limited specifically setup to provide specialist consultancy advice and services to Governments and commercial

organisations who are undertaking environmental noise mapping and related projects, such as those required under the END. iSoniq is able to provide a full advice service on all aspects of the implementation of END. This service covers the entire life cycle of END requirements from the development of costed policy options and drafting of Regulations and associated Guidance, to the development of technical methods and specifications, the design of programme and project management process and the physical production of noise maps and action plans. Visit www.isoniq.co.uk for more information

Hepworth Acoustics is one of the largest independent acoustics consultancies in the United Kingdom. The head office is in Warrington and the company operates from seven regional offices. The company specialises in environmental and building acoustics as well as noise mapping. More information on noise maps and all aspects of acoustics consultancy are available at www.hepworth-acoustics.co.uk.

AWN is Ireland's premier acoustic and environmental consultancy. Formed in 2000 the firm has an extensive track record of undertaking environmental assessments in Ireland, UK and Continental Europe and in identifying appropriate mitigation measures and solutions on behalf of its clients. Visit www.awnconsulting.com for more information.

Bureau Veritas UK and Ireland division has one of the largest Acoustics and Vibration teams in Europe. Their service range is extremely broad covering the impacts of noise and vibration in the environment and on people, and in detail, the assessment and impact of noise and vibration on structures and machinery. Services are deployed to a wide range of clients and sectors, including major blue chip organisations, offshore operators, marine operators and government/regulatory bodies and airport operators.

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