

## NEWS RELEASE

Issued on behalf of New Hospitals for the South West  
Sperrin Lakeland Trust



**Embargo: UNTIL 00.01HRS ON Wednesday 29 November 2006**

### **Three Firms now in the running for New Acute Hospital Contract**

The New Acute Hospital for the South West (NI) has taken another step forward with the announcement that three consortia are now in the running to win this major contract. The £229 million contract, which covers the design, build, finance, maintenance and operation of the new hospital, is being delivered under the government's Private Finance Initiative (PFI). The short-listed bidders are consortiums of leading construction and investment firms and each is made up of partnerships of both global and local companies. The final three bidders are Consort Healthcare, DirectHealth and Northern Ireland Health Group. These consortia now enter into the next stage of competitive dialogue which will culminate in the submission of fully developed tenders in August next year after which one final bidder will be appointed. Construction work on the new hospital is planned to begin in the Autumn of 2008. However arrangements are already underway to begin work to prepare the site for the new buildings with a contractor for these 'enabling works' is expected to be on-site in January 2007.

Commenting on the recent developments, Project Director Mary Maguire, Sperrin Lakeland Trust said, "We are looking forward to working with the short-listed bidders over the next six months. Our dealings with them to date have been very productive. Each is showing that they understand the Trust's requirements and that they share our commitment to put the patient at the centre of their plans. They are demonstrating a commitment to utilising the local workforce and suppliers where possible. This project will have a significant positive impact on the local area, not just in terms of health and well-being, but also by adding value to our local economy. Many of the ideas bidders are presenting are very innovative and we look forward to developing these and providing the best possible facilities for patients, staff and visitors."

**ENDS:**

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NOTES TO THE EDITOR:



#### 1. Details of the 3 Short listed Consortia are as follows;

**Consort Healthcare** includes the Shareholding Companies of John Graham (Dromore) Ltd and Balfour Beatty Capital Ltd. **Construction Contractors** are: Graham Martin, Balfour Beatty Construction Northern Ltd. and Haden Young Ltd.

The Consort Healthcare team in Northern Ireland is a joint venture between Balfour Beatty Capital Limited and John Graham (Dromore) Limited. Consort Healthcare is the leading PFI healthcare provider in the UK winning seven major projects incorporating 9 hospitals and 3 mental health units. Consort's operational projects include the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and University College Hospital London. Earlier this year it successfully closed the largest PFI hospital deal outside London - the £523m Birmingham New Hospitals Project. The partnership with Graham, one of Northern Ireland's leading contractors brings crucial local experience to the team. Graham, in joint venture with H&J Martin, has recently completed two landmark hospital developments at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast and the new Cancer Centre at Belfast City Hospital. Consort's new Belfast office opened in October of this year.

**DirectHealth** which includes the Shareholding Companies of Skanska Infrastructure Investment UK Limited, Innisfree Limited, Lagan Holdings Limited and John Sisk & Son. **Construction Contractors are:** Skanska Construction UK, John Sisk & Son and Lagan Construction.

The DirectHealth Consortium is a new organisation that brings together a number of companies which have worked together successfully in previous ventures. These companies each have a demonstrable track record of success. The consortium's Chairman is Gerry Cawley, from the Lagan Construction Group, which is based in Northern Ireland. The other companies include John Sisk & Son, Skanska UK and Innisfree. In addition, a number of local companies are supporting the consortium's bid including Design Partner Ferguson McIlveen, and Mechanical and Engineering Design company Delap and Waller.

DirectHealth provides a wide range, scope and experience of project delivery across the U.K. and Ireland. Its consortium members have a wide range of healthcare and hospital building experience with a number of operational hospitals and hospitals under construction at the present time.

The DirectHealth consortium will be a long term partnership between the four main parties, with each company acting as a shareholder and investing in the Project Companies established. The consortium intends to bid other healthcare PFI projects in Northern Ireland together in the future.

**Northern Ireland Health Group** which includes the Shareholding Companies of FCC Construction S.A., Interserve Investments Plc and Allied Irish Bank. **Construction Contractors are:** FCC Construction S.A., P Elliott & Co., Heron Brothers Ltd., Tracey Brothers Ltd., Mercury Engineering, Harvey Group, Sharpe Mechanical Services and Dowds Electrical.

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The Northern Ireland Health Group has been set up to design, build, finance and operate new modern hospital facilities. The Group will work in partnership with the local health economies and their stakeholders to deliver excellent healthcare to the people of Northern Ireland.

The consortium has 3 stakeholders: FCC Construcción SA, Allied Irish Bank and Interserve Investments. Each has a proven record of success in delivering large acute hospitals under the Private Finance Initiative. Our consortium approach will combine the best of local skills, international experience and industry-leading innovative practices.

Facilities Management services will be provided by Interserve FM, a well-established provider of support services in Northern Ireland.

**N.B. Consortia also include a range of Facility Management service providers, design teams (Architects, Q.S's and M & E consultants), legal advisers, health planners and construction sub-contractors.**

2. An advertisement for a contractor to complete enabling works on the site was placed in the European Journal (OJEU) in October and the closing date for tenders is December 2006. This work includes widening the road at the entrance to the site on the A32 in preparation for laying a new roundabout, diverting electricity pylons on the site underground and re-modelling of the ground to prepare for the new hospital buildings.

3. This project is part of the first of the wave of hospital projects to come forward from the Investment Strategy for NI, lead by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS), and supported by the Strategic Investment Board Ltd.

For more information on the SIB including the latest Annual Review and Accounts 2005 visit: [www.sibni.org](http://www.sibni.org)