

Rijkswaterstaat and engineering consortium Royal Haskoning, Arup and Greisch apply "Outsource, unless" principle in the renovation of eight steel bridges.

The engineering consortium of Royal Haskoning, Arup and Greisch has been given the order by the Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management (Rijkswaterstaat) to project manage and engineer the renovation of eight permanent steel bridges.

The project covers the entire process of inspection, calculation, design, preparing contract documents and supervising the execution of the renovation of eight steel bridges, including the Muiderbrug, Galecopperbrug and Van Brienoordbrug.

By appointing the consortium as managing contractor, Rijkswaterstaat is making further progress with the implementation of the 'Outsource, unless' principle.

Through this contract Rijkswaterstaat wants to utilise market capabilities to the utmost, encourage market players to do more management tasks, and improve Rijkswaterstaat's approach.

Quality has been a significant criterion in the tendering for this contract.

The priority objectives of the contract are completion of the bridges on schedule, minimal disruption to traffic and optimised construction costs. A significant part of the money paid to the consortium depends on achieving these objectives. This aligns the interests of the client and contractor to a considerable degree.

It calls for a new attitude by Rijkswaterstaat as client and by the engineering firms with regard to one another. The engineering firms have the initiative. Rijkswaterstaat gives direction in its role as network manager and bears overall responsibility. Collaboration between client and contractor is crucial to efficient and speedy delivery of products and execution.

Royal Haskoning is the lead contractor of the consortium and is responsible for project management, traffic measures, purchasing management and construction supervision. Arup is in charge of technical management, including the design and calculations for the measures to reinforce the bridges. As technical specialists, Greisch will concentrate on further quality improvements.

The focus is on quality and cost control. This is in line with how Rijkswaterstaat wants to contract out its projects. Knowledge management and product and process development are further important elements in the contract.