

Contract signed for Luas Cross City Utility Works

Wednesday 6th November 2013 - The Utility Works contract for the Luas Cross City (LCC) project has been awarded by the RPA to GMC Utilities Group Limited (GMC). GMC is a civil and mechanical engineering group of companies based in the Republic of Ireland. The 21 month contract will involve the diversion of existing electricity, gas, water and communications networks out of the pathway of the new LCC route. The purpose of diverting these services is to facilitate the later construction of the LCC tracks and to minimise the disruption that future utility maintenance works would cause to tram operations.

This contract will include the diversion of over 5km of water mains, 10km of telecommunications infrastructure and 6km of gas and electricity services. The on-street works will begin after the busy Christmas period, in January 2014. In the meantime, the necessary site compounds, traffic management measures and work programmes will be developed.

Over the duration of the project these works will be planned and implemented in consultation with key stakeholders including Dublin City Council, An Garda Síochána, other public transport bodies, local businesses, residents and local area representatives. This will ensure effective communication and engagement with the public in advance of changes to traffic arrangements or any traffic diversions which may be required.

The works will be managed using a collaborative form of contract, called the NEC3 Contract. The contract requires both client and contractor to adopt a collaborative approach to contract administration. This form of contract is relatively new to the Irish construction industry but has already been successfully used on major public infrastructure schemes in the UK, notably by London's Olympic Delivery Authority for the 2012 Olympic Games. This is the first time it has been used in Ireland for a large scale utilities diversion project.

It is estimated that the Luas Cross City Utility Works contract will take 21 months to complete, allowing the commencement of the LCC track construction works in mid-2015.

For further information see www.luascrosscity.ie