

# News

23 May 2016

## **National Grid awards Humber pipeline project contract to Skanska, PORR and A.Hak JV**

National Grid is pleased to announce it has awarded Skanska, PORR Bau GmbH and A.Hak joint venture the contract to design and build a replacement high pressure gas pipeline within a tunnel, underneath the River Humber from Paull to Goxhill, replacing the existing pipeline which lies on the riverbed.

The contract has been let, subject to planning consent for the replacement pipeline from the Planning Inspectorate, which is due in September 2016.

Phil Croft, National Grid's senior project manager said: "This pipeline will be the longest gas pipeline in a tunnel, inserted in a single string in the world. To do this we need partners with experience and a proven track record. Skanska, PORR and A.Hak were able to demonstrate their expertise and knowledge throughout the tender process, giving us the confidence that this was the right company to build this tunnel and pipeline in such an environmentally sensitive and commercially busy river."

The three year project is estimated to cost around £150 million, in which the joint venture will provide full design and construction of the 5km tunnel underneath the River Humber, inserting a single string of 42" steel pipe and connect into the above ground installations (AGIs) at Paull and Goxhill.

On behalf of the joint venture, Colin Nicol, Operations Director, Skanska said: "We are delighted to be awarded this contract. The joint venture was formed to bring together international expertise to deliver, in an innovative, sustainable and collaborative way, a tunnel that will protect the pipeline for the long term, helping National Grid to provide a vital service to millions of people."

The River Humber pipeline is part of the national transmission system – connecting the import terminal at Easington, on the East Yorkshire coast, to the wider network and delivering gas to millions of customers throughout the UK.

Over time, the tidal patterns of the River Humber have eroded the river bed covering the existing pipeline, leading to parts of it being at risk of being exposed. An innovative short-term engineering solution to protect the pipeline by covering exposed areas was put in place in 2010. Because of the importance of the pipeline, National Grid is now looking to construct a new pipeline in a tunnel underneath the River Humber from the above ground installations (AGIs) at Paull, east of Hull and south of the river at Goxhill, as a long-term replacement.

The pipeline will connect to the existing National Grid AGI sites at Paull and Goxhill and will be 3.63 miles (5.4km) long, of which 3.18 miles (5km) would be tunnelled.

The pipeline will be 42" (1050mm) in diameter and will transport natural gas at a pressure of 70barg.

**Key Facts**

Length of pipeline	<b>5.4km / 3.63 miles</b>
Diameter of pipeline	<b>42 inches (1050mm)</b>
Length of pipeline tunnelled	<b>5km / 3.18 miles</b>
Depth of tunnel	<b>35 metres</b>
Width of tunnel	<b>3-4 metres</b>
Length of construction	<b>35 months (approx.)</b>
Length of time spent tunnelling	<b>12 months (approx.)</b>
Gas pressure	<b>70 barg</b>

Project information is also available on National Grid's project website:

<http://riverhumberpipeline.com/>