



SSE CONSORTIUM WINS LEEDS STREET LIGHTING PFI

SSE Contracting, the UK's largest public lighting contractor, is part of a consortium appointed by Leeds City Council to replace and maintain street lights throughout the City of Leeds under a 25-year Private Finance Initiative (PFI) agreement.

The consortium, comprising SSE Contracting, Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) and The Royal Bank of Scotland, will work in partnership with Leeds City Council to make the city's streets brighter, safer and more energy efficient.

Leeds City Council will spend £100 million over the next five years in the largest investment contract of its kind in the country. Under the terms of the agreement, SSE Contracting Lighting Services will replace 80 per cent of the city's lighting columns (over 80,000 in total) with new, state-of-the-art stock, increasing lighting levels and removing large areas of the city from the orange glow that has become a familiar sight for over 30 years.

In designing the project, Leeds City Council placed great emphasis on the need to find an environmentally, as well as an energy efficient solution. SSE Contracting recommended the use of new technology, the Philips CosmoPolis™, not widely used before in the UK on such a large scale. This light source will not only consume far less energy than the existing lighting, but also significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

Tunnels, underpasses and pedestrian subways will be lighter and brighter too. Cycleways, illuminated traffic signs and bollards will also have new lighting facilities.

Leeds City Council executive member for City Services, Councillor Steve Smith, said: "We welcome the opportunities that this project presents. Good street lighting is vital for better security, deterring crime and greater road safety. "It also enhances the appearance of streets, minimises light pollution and provides an increased sense of security and pride for Leeds residents and visitors to the city. I look forward to working alongside our partners in delivering this important new scheme."

"We are delighted to have been appointed by Leeds City Council to deliver such a prestigious contract", said Ray Stowell, Managing Director of SSE Contracting Lighting Services. "We have seen real tangible benefits from similar projects we are carrying out in Newcastle and North Tyneside and Stoke-on-Trent, and we look forward to providing the same benefits to residents in Leeds."

SSE Contracting will determine the order of the replacement programme, working ward by ward and setting priorities based on the age and condition of lighting columns, and on the safety of the area. Replacement work will begin in July 2006.

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