

Press release: HS2 appoints Phase Two B Development Partner and engineering and environmental consultants

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Plans to bring HS2 to Manchester and Leeds took a step forward today with the confirmation that contracts will be awarded to CH2M, Arup, an AECOM / Capita / INECO joint venture and a Mott MacDonald / WSP joint venture to help progress the design.

The appointments are a major milestone for the high speed rail project and comes after an 11 month competitive process, during which seven multi-national bidders were invited to tender for four packages of work.

CH2M will become Phase Two B Development Partner and work together with teams from Arup, AECOM / Capita / INECO and Mott MacDonald / WSP.

Together, they will provide the expert engineering and environmental support needed to take forward the development of the route north of Crewe to Manchester and from the West Midlands to Yorkshire, with a hybrid Bill – essentially the planning application for this part of the route – expected to be presented to Parliament in 2019.

The government gave the go ahead for the sections of the route, between Crewe and Manchester, and Birmingham and Leeds, via Sheffield and the East Midlands, subject to some specific route refinements which are under consultation, in November last year. The dedicated high speed lines are planned to open in 2033, providing extra capacity between the UK's largest cities, improving connectivity and reducing journey times.

Alison Munro, HS2 Ltd Managing Director – Development, said:

This contract awards mark an important milestone for HS2 – giving us the expert resource needed to progress the second phase of the project and bring high speed rail to Manchester and Leeds by 2033.

Our new partners bring a wealth of recent experience on some of the world's most challenging and complex infrastructure projects and I look forward to working with them to ensure that HS2 can benefit from the experience and innovation they have to offer.

The following companies will be appointed:

Phase Two B Development Partner:

Phase Two B Civils Design and Environmental Services:

- Lot 1 – CDES – Mott MacDonald / WSP joint venture
- Lot 2 – CDES – AECOM / Capita / INECO joint venture
- Lot 3 – CDES and Environmental Overview Consultant (EOC) – Arup

Contracts are expected to be signed after the 20 February 2017 with staff joining the HS2 Ltd team soon after.

[News story: Thousands of students will benefit from new cadet units backed by £50 million Government plan](#)

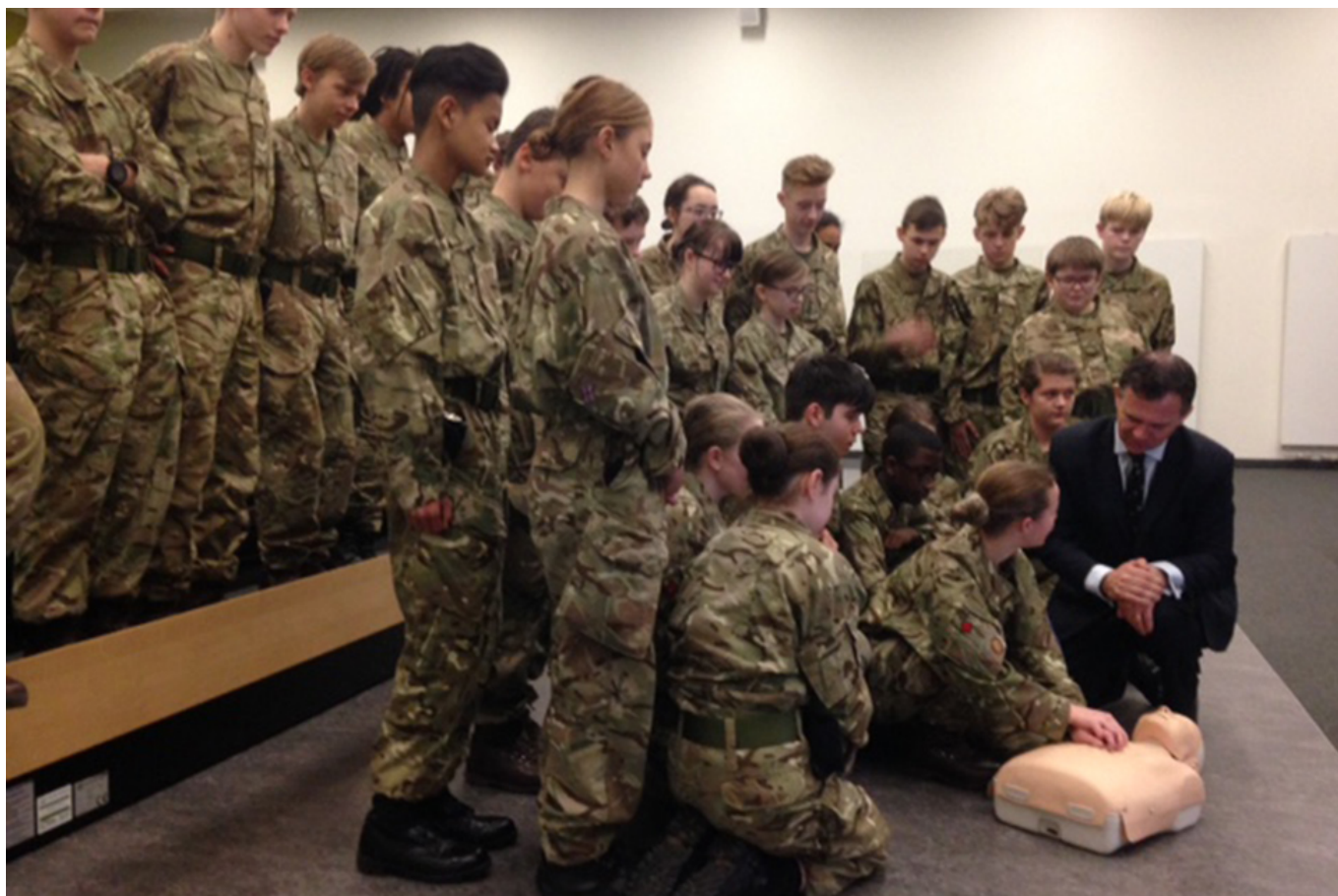
Thousands of students, many often from less prosperous areas, are set to benefit from the development prospects and new skills, such as team-work, problem solving and leadership that school cadet units bring. These will be opened in areas where previously opportunities such as this were limited.

This new wave of cadet units follows an [announcement last year by Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon on another 25](#), as the government remains on target to have a total of 500 running in UK schools by 2020. The CEP is backed by £50 million funding from LIBOR fines, which pays for set up costs, the students' uniforms, equipment and training.

Speaking at Brompton Academy today, Defence Minister Mark Lancaster, said:

These new units help deliver on the Government's manifesto commitment that more students should be able to enjoy the rewards of joining the cadets from every background.

Cadet Forces offer a fantastic opportunity for students, providing exciting new opportunities and helping to instil the positive values of citizenship, responsibility and fairness.



Defence Minister Mark Lancaster meets Army Cadets at Brompton Academy as he announces 25 schools to create new cadet units. Crown copyright.

Cadet units, provide challenging and enjoyable activities for students, offering them the opportunity to learn new skills, engage in adventurous activities, and help them gain vocational BTEC qualifications. Schools also recognise the benefits, with a number of Head Teachers saying that having cadets as students improves attendance and classroom behavior and research has shown an increase in academic achievement, self-esteem and self-confidence.

Learn more about the [Cadet Expansion Programme here](#).

The Schools that will be setting up new Cadet units are:

- Ash Manor School- Surrey
- Aston University Engineering Academy- West Midlands
- Barr Beacon School- West Midlands
- Boldon School- Tyne and Wear
- Cookstown High School- County Tyrone, Northern Ireland
- Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy- Kent
- Hayesfield Girls School- Somerset
- Isle of Portland Aldridge Community Academy- Dorset
- Knole Academy- Sevenoaks, Kent
- Maxwelltown High School- Lochside Rd, Dumfries
- Northbrook College- West Sussex
- Ron Dearing UTC- Hull
- Shenfield High School- Essex

- Sirius Academy West- Hull
 - St Antony's Catholic College- Greater Manchester
 - The Dean Academy- Gloucestershire
 - The Hawthorne's Free School- Merseyside
 - The International School – West Midlands
 - The John Warner School – Hertfordshire
 - The Phoenix Collegiate- West Midlands
 - The Priory City of Lincoln Academy- Lincolnshire
 - The Priory Ruskin Academy- Lincolnshire
 - The Priory Witham Academy- Lincolnshire
 - The Victory Academy- Kent
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[This report should serve as a warning that plans to re-introduce selection at 11 will only make the attainment gap wider – Rayner](#)

Angela

Rayner MP, Shadow Education Secretary, commenting on the Sutton Trust report into the attainment gap between poor pupils and their better-off classmates, said:

“This report should serve as a stark warning to the Government that their plans to re-introduce selection at 11 will only make this attainment gap between disadvantaged children and their peers even wider.

“Their plans to bring back grammar schools are reckless and without evidence. Introducing wholesale selection back into the schools system will only make life more difficult for the most disadvantaged kids.”

[News story: Deal agreed to ease restrictions on flights between the](#)

two nations

The UK and India have today (9 February 2017) agreed to ease restrictions on the number of scheduled flights between the two countries, following successful talks in India this week.

Limits on flights from key Indian cities including Chennai and Kolkata have been scrapped, allowing for a greater range of flights for passengers while providing a boost to trade and tourism for the UK and India. Building new links with important trading partners is a key part of the government's plans for a Global Britain, opening up new export markets and creating jobs and economic growth.

India is a rapidly expanding and important market for aviation and the agreement signed today will allow airlines to develop new services and routes.

Aviation Minister Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon said:

India is one of our closest allies and key trading partners and this new agreement will only serve to strengthen this crucial relationship. We are unlocking new trade and tourism opportunities which will boost our economies, create new jobs and open up new business links. This is great news for both the UK and India and is yet another sign that we are open for business and ready to build and strengthen our trade links.

With about 2.5 million passengers flying direct between the UK and India each year, and 88 scheduled services per week in each direction between the two countries, the agreement today will open up even more routes and opportunities.

Indian Civil Aviation Minister Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju said:

The increase in number of flights between the UK and India is encouraging news for our businesses and tourists. We already enjoy strong ties with the UK and we welcome such continued association which in the long run will not only encourage business activity, but also people-to-people contact. I am sure that this agreement will bring direct and indirect benefits to many sectors of the economies of our two countries.

Tourism from India makes an important contribution to the UK economy. In 2015, there were 422,000 visits from India to the UK, bringing more than £433 million to the economy.

The agreement was formally signed during a [visit to India by Lord Ahmad](#),

where he led a delegation of British companies for the 2017 CAPA India Aviation Summit. The Cabinet Minister of Civil Aviation, Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju, signed on behalf of India.

Meeting with the Cabinet Minister for Civil Aviation Mr Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Minister of State at the Ministry of Civil Aviation Mr Jayant Sinha, and India's leading airlines, UK Aviation Minister Lord Ahmad encouraged Indian businesses to partner with UK aerospace companies to capitalise Britain's world-class aviation expertise.

The final decision on additional flights between the UK and India is a commercial one for airlines.

[Speech: Celebrating the aviation ties between India and the UK](#)

Introduction

It's an honour to speak to the Indian aviation community today (8 February 2017).

And I'm grateful for your warm welcome.

I've come to India as a representative of the British government, and with a clear purpose.

To meet the Indian government, Indian airlines, and the aerospace industry, and in so doing to strengthen the ties between our countries.

As the UK's Minister for Aviation, I have something of a natural advantage in achieving that purpose.

Because what makes the aviation industry so special is that it is – by definition – an industry founded on international ties.

On the links between distant places.

On the common enterprise between peoples.

And it's an industry with a goal: to bring those peoples together, for trade or for pleasure.

There are few greater examples of this than the links aviation provides between India and the UK.

British Airways has been flying to India for over 90 years.

And when Air India established its first ever international route, in 1948, it was to London.

Now three and a half million people travel between our two countries by air every year.

More people fly from the UK to India than from almost any other country.

And the 1.5-million-strong Indian diaspora in the UK – of which I count myself a member – is kept in contact with friends and family half a world away by the unceasing passage of Indian and UK airliners between our airports.

Era of expansion

There are also great parallels between our respective industries.

Both have begun a new era of expansion.

It is a thrill for me come to this country at the most exciting time in Indian aviation history.

To see for myself its rate of growth and global reach.

The number of Indian airlines has more than doubled in 10 years.

Last month, the aviation market in this country hit 13 consecutive months of passenger growth.

And you are on track by 2030 to become the largest aviation market in the world.

In the UK, too, aviation is growing, and set to grow much further still.

Each record year of passenger numbers is broken by the next.

New routes to new destinations are added almost every month.

Heathrow

And in October we took a long overdue decision – to support the construction of a [third runway at Heathrow airport](#).

Those of you who have flown to Heathrow – perhaps even flown there in the pilot's seat – will know how busy that airport is.

In fact, it is the busiest two-runway airport anywhere on earth.

Heathrow's popularity helps make the UK the best connected country in Europe.

But for many years the airport has been operating at full capacity.

Without action, space for flights to and from new destinations – including

India – will be severely constrained.

So our recommendation is that Heathrow be allowed to construct a world-class new runway, and the planning process is already underway.

An expanded Heathrow would make possible an extra 260,000 aircraft movements a year, or 16 million additional long-haul seats.

And it would compete against hubs such as Amsterdam, Paris and Frankfurt.

Aviation strategy

This decision is important enough that it justifies a fresh examination of how the government works with the aviation sector.

So over the next 2 years, we are going to draw up a new aviation strategy.

It will determine how the government can support the industry's continued future success.

We are exploring:

- the effect of aviation on the environment
- how aviation can best serve its customers
- how we can support regional growth and connectivity
- how to increase trade through aviation
- the importance of aviation employment and skills
- innovation, and the transformative potential of big data

In so many of these areas I increasingly see that our two countries have much common experience.

In skills for instance.

The Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University, which the Indian government is establishing, is a brilliant idea.

I have already written to the Honourable Minister for Civil Aviation, Puspapati Ashok Gajapati Raju, on the matter.

And I'd like to look at whether this model could work in the UK too.

Then there's aviation growth and the environment.

As we both expand our aviation capacity, we'll both need to look at how we can make the best use of break-through cleaner technologies.

Brexit

But, of course, the decisions we are taking for UK aviation come in the context of an even more momentous decision.

In June, the British people voted to leave the European Union.

It is a decision with far-reaching consequences – and not just for the UK and the EU, but also for India and our other international partners.

To understand the decision is to see that it was not just a vote to leave the European Union.

It was also a positive expression of our desire to raise our ambitions and look beyond the EU.

The UK has always been a profoundly internationalist country.

We are one of the most racially diverse countries in Europe.

One of the most multicultural members of the European Union.

A country that has always looked beyond Europe to the wider world.

And – whether we are talking about India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, America, Australia, Canada, New Zealand or countries in Africa – so many of us have close friends and relatives from across the world.

The vote to leave the EU was a vote to strengthen those global ties.

That's why we gave our backing to a third runway at Heathrow.

That is why we are looking to renew our aviation strategy.

And that is why I was so determined to come to India to meet the aviation community here.

Because I want us to work together, to strengthen even more those ties of trade and friendship.

We already do much business together.

In aviation alone, of the 480 aircraft in the Indian civil fleet, almost half are built by Airbus – with their most important components made in the UK.

Then there was the brilliantly successful partnership between Mumbai airport and the UK's National Air Traffic Service.

Together they substantially increased airspace at the airport, helping bring in an extra \$100 million in annual revenue.

And the trade links go far beyond just aviation.

Since the turn of the century, no G20 country has invested more in India than has the UK.

One in twenty jobs in the organised private sector in India is in a UK company.

We have heeded Prime Minister Modi's request that the world "Make in India".

We are one of the very biggest Makers in India.

We are proud of it.

And in the future we want to do much more still.

That's why our Prime Minister chose India for her first overseas trade delegation.

During that visit, £1.2 billion worth of business between UK and Indian companies was announced.

And during her visit, she joined with Prime Minister Modi in committing to build the closest possible commercial and economic relationship.

The groundwork is already being laid.

Our [Secretary of State for International Trade, Liam Fox](#), has agreed to set up a joint working group with your Honourable Minister for Trade, Nirmala Sitharaman.

It's going to look at both the future of our trade and investment links as the UK leaves the EU, and it will identify the practical steps we can take at present, too.

Conclusion

In thinking of past, present and future links, I am reminded of a photograph I keep on my desk in Westminster.

It is a picture of one of the greatest of Indians: Mahatma Gandhi.

I remember something he once said, that:

If we are to make progress, we must not repeat history but make new history.

We must add to the inheritance left by our ancestors.

That thought could be a summation of everything the British government would like to achieve with India.

To build on the inheritance left by our ancestors.

We have a long and deep relationship, and much common history.

I welcome your support as we seek to build yet higher on those foundations.

In our aviation industries.

In enterprise.

In friendship.

Thank you.