

## **News from Nottingham City Council**

2 December 2009

### **NET Phase Two bidders confirmed**

**Two consortia made up of some of Europe's leading transport providers have prequalified to be invited to submit tenders to build NET Phase Two and operate an extended Nottingham tram network. They are Arrow Connect and Tramlink Nottingham.**

Arrow Connect Consortia, which is formed from some of the companies who currently operate the successful NET Line One system, include:

- Bombardier - one of the world's leading aerospace and rail transportation manufacturers
- VolkerRail - provider of rail infrastructure services in the UK and part of the internationally known VolkerWessels Group
- Transdev - one of the largest public transport operators in Europe
- Nottingham City Transport – main provider of bus services in Greater Nottingham
- CDC Group Ltd - a private equity fund investor.

The Tramlink Nottingham Consortia includes:

- VINCI Investments and VINCI Construction UK - both part of VINCI, the world's leading concession and construction group
- Alstom – a world expert in urban transport systems
- Keolis – the major international private sector tram operator
- Trent Barton Bus Service – award winning East Midlands bus operator
- InfraVia – construction equity investment fund provider
- Meridiam - infrastructure investment fund provider for public private partnerships.

Completed tenders are due to be received by May 2010. Chris Deas, NET Project Director at Nottingham City Council, says: "We are very pleased that the project has attracted the interest of two consortia of such calibre, especially in the current economic climate. Each includes organisations that can bring valuable skills and experience to Nottingham. The involvement of Nottingham City Transport and Trent

Barton will ensure both consortia have a full understanding of the local public transport market."

The NET project team continues to work closely with the business community and local economic development and employment agencies to make sure that as many jobs as possible are sourced locally when the construction of NET Phase Two starts.

It is expected that Nottingham City Council will award the winning bidder with the contract in August 2011. Construction of NET Phase Two will start in the autumn of 2011. The two new lines will be operational by late 2014.

Matthew Crosse, on behalf of Arrow Connect, says: "We are delighted that we have been selected to tender for NET Phase Two. As a consortium we have vast experience, not only in operating NET, but also NCT, the largest bus network across the city. In addition we offer extensive expertise in the design and building of tram networks across the world and of course in Nottingham itself."

Ian Morgan, Deputy Chairman of Trent Barton said: "As a local bus company which has been successfully serving the Nottingham economy for decades, we are delighted to be part of such a robust and impressive consortium. We are obviously extremely pleased to have prequalified and we look forward to submitting a convincing set of proposals for what is a massively exciting project."