

PROJECT AQUATRINE – Southern & Western UK

Client: Ministry of Defence, UK



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Description:

Project Aquatrine is the UK's largest water PFI Project estimated at £2.3 billion over a 25 year concession. The Project provides water and wastewater services across the majority of Ministry of Defence (MoD) sites within Great Britain. The Project has been subdivided into three separate geographic areas, Packages A, B and C. BREY Utilities, a consortium of Earth Tech Engineering Ltd, Yorkshire Water and Kellogg Brown and Root, has been successfully appointed as Contract Partner for, Package A, of Project Aquatrine (which covers the Midlands, Wales and South West England).

Background:

The MoD recognised that the historical management of its water and wastewater estate had not been efficient and that the use of the private sector would provide better value for money and improved management of environmental issues. In 1998 the MoD signed two groundbreaking PFI deals, for the management of its water and wastewater services, at RAF Lyneham and Tidworth Garrison. These deals paved the way for Project Aquatrine, to allow the same benefits to be delivered throughout the majority of the MOD estate. Project Aquatrine will allow the MoD to exit a non-core activity and concentrate on delivering military capability.

To deliver the Project throughout Great Britain the Project was subdivided into three separate geographic areas : Package A (which covers the Midlands, Wales and South West England); Package B (which covers Scotland); Package C (which covers the North and North West, East Anglia and the South East of England).

On the 1 December 2003, BREY Utilities, a consortium of Earth Tech Engineering Ltd, Yorkshire Water and Kellogg Brown and Root, were successfully appointed as Contract Partner for Package A, for a Contract period of 25 Years.

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The Services

Within the Package A area, BREY Utilities, are delivering water and wastewater services, including foul drainage and surface water drainage, to 1100 sites distributed across the region. Typically the MoD have transferred responsibility for the following services:

- Providing potable and non potable water to the extremity of buildings
- Foul drainage from the extremity of the buildings
- Surface water drainage for all roads and hard-standings
- Fire fighting supply, including potable, non potable and seawater systems

To deliver this diverse range of services, BREY have leased all the above ground existing water and wastewater infrastructure on the sites and are responsible for the provision of incumbent water company supplies and discharges.

For Package A, the extent of the existing infrastructure for which BREY are responsible is summarised below:

Asset Type	Number/size
Boreholes	104 No
Impounding Reservoirs	6 No
Service Reservoirs	134 No
Water Pumping Stations	70 No
Water Treatment Works	47 No
Water Distribution Mains	922km
Oil and Water Interceptors	797 No
Wastewater Treatment Works	72 No
Sewage Pumping Station	300 No
Sewers	1,045km
Storm Drains	1,248km

Service Delivery

BREY are responsible for all facets of the service delivery. The only source of income is via a unitary charge for the net water consumed on the site groups. The responsibility for the supply of water, removal of wastewater, the operation and maintenance of fixed assets and for the capital spend requirements remains with BREY. In short, BREY is the incumbent water company to the MOD within the Package A area.

Incumbent Supplies

Where sites are either in whole or partially served with incumbent supplies and discharges, BREY are responsible for buying such services from the local incumbent suppliers. BREY are currently working with 15 existing incumbent water company's and buy approximately 10,000,000 m3 of water per annum for supply to the MoD.

Operations and Maintenance Services

BREY are established as an asset management and service delivery company. BREY have a small number of partners who provide BREY with key operations and maintenance services. The services are coordinated via a BREY operated helpline facility. The helpline is the prime interface between the MoD

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users, the operations and maintenance partners and BREY. It provides real time control and monitoring of the service delivery and provides feedback to the business.

Capital Works

BREY are responsible for the procurement of all capital works to enable the services to be delivered, including new schemes and general asset upgrades and maintenance. BREY are delivering the capital solutions that will optimise the use of existing assets including upgrades and renovations. BREY are using Earth Tech Engineering as the prime Capital Solutions Partner. The contract model adopted for the works is identical to that successfully used to deliver the Yorkshire Water AMP3 programme of works.

Partnering

A key factor in the success of BREY has been its in-depth understanding of the partnering expectations of the MoD. The Project has a 25 year Contract life and by recognising the importance of the relationship BREY have been able to work closely with the MoD to provide an efficient and cost effective service.

The management of the Contract is via The Partnering Management Organisation (PMO). The PMO combines staff from the MoD with BREY. The PMO has a general contract management role, a Commercial and Financial function. Whilst the later two functions are clearly specific to the individual Service Providers for each Package, the general contract management role is shared throughout the PMO. Some key activities of this role is presented below.

- Receiving and reviewing Service provider information and/or proposed actions
- Liaising and planning of operations/ investment
- Provision of consents or authorisations
- Auditing
- Resolving problems
- Information exchange