New Prison Precinct Takes Important Step Forward

More than 1000 jobs are expected to be created from the construction of Darwin’s new prison precinct in Holtze.

Axiom Corrections, SeNTinel and Assure Partners were today announced as the shortlisted consortia for a Public Private Partnership (PPP) with the Territory Government to design, construct, finance and maintain the prison precinct.

“The prison precinct is a key plank of the Government’s new era in corrections to break the cycle of reoffending and build a safer Territory,” Corrections Minister Gerry McCarthy said.

“The existing prison at Berrimah is outdated and cannot be upgraded to deliver the education, training and rehabilitation programs needed to reduce prisoner numbers.

“A public private partnership for the prison precinct, including the 800-bed Doug Owston Correctional Centre and a 36-bed secure mental health unit, will deliver the best value for Territorians.

“The project is expected to create more than 1000 direct and indirect jobs and generate significant opportunities for local businesses.”

Each of the consortia will be issued with a Request for Proposal (RFP) next month with tenders to close in May 2011.

The RFP will require detailed costings and measurable local industry and Indigenous participation plans to achieve between 75% to 90% local content across material supply, labour and plant and equipment supply and installation.

Each consortium has local, national and international links and their selection follows an expression of interest window that enabled potential partners to nominate for the project.

Some of the major infrastructure and corrections projects undertaken by the various consortia members include Australian prisons, schools and hospitals.

“The purpose built new prison precinct will deliver best practice in design and construction, including security systems, and will have dedicated areas to deliver education, training and rehabilitation programs.

Construction is set to begin late next year and be complete in 2014.

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