

Mott MacDonald designs Al Raha Beach bridges

Mott MacDonald is to help design the Boulevard Bridge for the prestigious Al Raha Beach project in Abu Dhabi.

An extended contract will see Mott MacDonald provide detailed designs for the 12 bridge structures carrying the central tree lined boulevard and the light rail for the project. The firm will design the concrete deck slabs for each bridge, will act as independent verifiers

for the designs of the bridge steelwork and design an A-Frame to support one of the bridges. Mott MacDonald will also provide independent foundation design review.

Michael Barron, Mott MacDonald's project director, said: "The complex structure of the boulevard bridges requires analysis and design services which can only be provided by highly skilled engineers."



Al Raha construction work underway

EU energy revved up

The European Union's new energy agency has opened for business. The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators, or ACER, has elected Lord Mogg as chair and Walter Boltz as Vice Chair.

In March 2011 ACER will take on its full responsibilities as it works with national regulators to support integration of electricity and natural gas markets across the continent.

Lord Mogg, who also chairs the British energy regulatory authority Ofgem, commented: "Preparatory work is already well underway on a ten year Network Development Plan in electricity and gas and the first ever EU-wide Network Codes."

Stallingborough biomass plant

Parsons Brinckerhoff is set to deliver a new 65 MW biomass power plant at Stallingborough, near the Humberside port of Immingham.

The RWE npower renewables project is expected to be operational in 2013. When completed it will become the UK's second largest wood-burning biomass power plant and will generate energy for the national grid.

The new plant will burn a mixture of recycled and virgin woodchip sourced from across the UK in addition to locally grown energy crops.

Biomass is expected to form a growing part of the UK's green energy portfolio over the coming decade.

Birthday honours praise engineering

Three senior ACE figures, as well as other noteworthy engineers, have been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours' list. All were commended for their services to the industry at home and abroad.

Nelson Ogunshakin, ACE's chief executive, has been awarded an OBE for his services to the domestic and international construction and engineering sectors. Nelson is a champion for the low carbon economy, has taken a leading role in the campaign to bring the 2012 Olympics to London and raised the profile of UK consultancy and engineering globally by having ACE host the FIDIC 2009 conference.

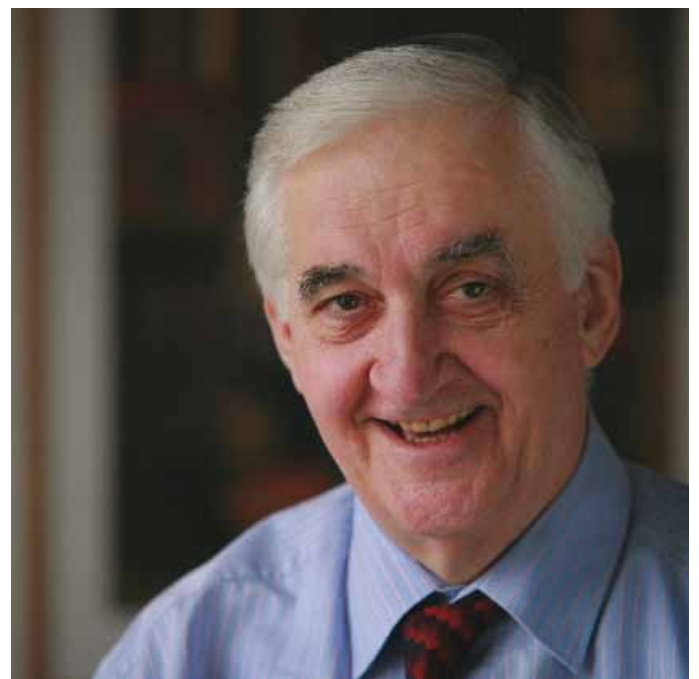
ACE's first ever female chair, Michelle McDowell, has been awarded an MBE for her services to the construction industry. Michelle has broken the 'glass ceiling' as a trailblazer for women in the construction sector. She is chair of BDP's civil and structural engineering group. Michelle also works tirelessly encouraging young

people to become engineers while stressing the wealth of opportunities the profession can offer.

ACE advisory board member and non-executive chairman of Laing O'Rourke Construction Hong Kong Limited, Douglas Oakervee OBE, received a CBE for his services to the sector. This follows a career spanning a range of prestigious roles that include project director for the Hong Kong Airport, director of the London Gateway project and executive chairman of Crossrail.

Outside of ACE, Jean Venables OBE and Scott Steedman received CBEs.

Jean Venables was president of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 2008-2009 and Dr Steedman is vice-president of the Royal Academy of Engineering. Dr Steedman has worked on major infrastructure and building projects around the world, including acting as a task leader on the US government's interagency task force investigating the flooding in New Orleans.



ACE advisory board member Douglas Oakervee OBE