



## Government Construction Strategy Offers Clarity - CECA

The Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) has welcomed today's publication of the government's new construction strategy, which aims to standardise how government interacts with the construction industry, streamline how government procurement practices operate and cut around 20% out of the costs of government construction projects.

Today's strategy answers many of the points CECA raised earlier this year when it published *Ten Steps to Smarter Procurement*, including making greater use of standard pre-qualification documents, engaging suppliers earlier and improving the standard of public sector procurement practices.

This strategy follows on from the work of Infrastructure UK as another sign of the government's commitment to working with the construction industry.

CECA members look forward to working alongside government in the collaborative manner the strategy suggests, to deliver the crucial infrastructure the country needs, while delivering the best possible value for taxpayers alongside much greater certainty for contractors.

CECA director of external affairs Alasdair Reisner commented: "For many years contractors have asked for greater clarity from government over its relationship with the industry. The *Government Construction Strategy* is an important document as it attempts provide a clear steer on the future direction of policy in this area, particularly in relation to procurement.

"Poor procurement practice is one of dominant problems faced by contractors, and the issue is particularly acute in the public sector. It was for this reason that earlier this year CECA published its ten point proposals to reform public sector procurement, highlighting issues such as programme visibility, reducing pre-qualification and early contractor involvement where simple changes could bring about vast improvements to efficiency.

"We are pleased that all but three of our points are, at least in part, dealt with by the *Government Procurement Strategy*. We look forward to working with representative of the government and leading public sector clients to understand in greater detail what the new strategy will mean for our members."

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For more information, further comment or interviews please contact Calum Benson on 020 7340 0452 or [calumbenson@ceca.co.uk](mailto:calumbenson@ceca.co.uk)

### Notes to Editors

1. The Civil Engineering Contractors Association represents over 300 contractors of all sizes, covering approximately 80% of the civil engineering market in Great Britain. Our members build infrastructure that provides the basis for economic sustainability and quality of life in communities across the country.
2. The full version of the *Government Construction Strategy* can be viewed here: [http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/government-construction-strategy\\_0.pdf](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/government-construction-strategy_0.pdf)