

# Institution of Civil Engineers

## Press Release

13 April 2010

For immediate release

### Coalition government must agree on planning priorities say engineers

Responding to the coalition agreement, Director General of the Institution of Civil Engineers Tom Foulkes said he was pleased to see swift decisions being made about the UK's future infrastructure; however more detail was needed particularly around funding and planning.

“It is encouraging to see consensus on the need for a Green Investment Bank (GIB). However we need detail on how this bank will attract the vast investment needed in coming years to revolutionise our infrastructure networks, underpin economic recovery and drive the low carbon agenda. An effective infrastructure funding mechanism must be a permanent institution with a long term strategic remit that helps to create a stable environment for private investors. The UK Investment Bank (UKIB) proposed by the Liberal Democrats is more ambitious and more clearly aligned to the scale of the challenge - we hope the principles by which a GIB will operate mirror those of the UKIB.

“A new funding mechanism will be much more effective if it is complemented by a fair and predictable planning regime to ensure vital infrastructure projects proceed without undue delay. ICE is concerned therefore to see no mention of planning or a new consent system to replace the Infrastructure Planning Commission, which both parties agreed to abolish. Lack of clarity around the planning system will be a major disincentive for private investors and delay delivery of nationally significant projects.

He added:

“Investing in a new era of power stations, a clean energy supply and our transport networks is crucial to creating a low carbon economy, meeting pressing environmental targets and ensuring we have a secure energy supply in future.

“ICE believes to achieve this, nuclear power as a proven low carbon energy supply will need to

play a part in the future energy mix. We are pleased that under this agreement Lib Dem MPs will not vote against measures that will allow new nuclear construction to proceed. Given the scale of investment required in new nuclear, it will be important that this line is maintained to prevent industry confidence being eroded.”

**For more information please contact Emily Beadon 020 7665 2261 or 07917215955**

ENDS

#### Notes to editors

The Institution of Civil Engineers South West has approximately 6,000 members in a geographical area stretching from Cornwall to Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Dorset.

For more information, contact Joanne Cochrane or Julie Everett at Coast Communications on 01752 847135.

For more information, go to [www.ice-southwest.org.uk](http://www.ice-southwest.org.uk).

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The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) was founded in 1818 to ensure professionalism in civil engineering. It represents 80,000 qualified and student civil engineers in the UK and across the globe. The ICE has long worked with the government of the day to help it to achieve its objectives, and has worked with industry to ensure that construction and civil engineering remain major contributors to the UK economy and UK exports.

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The Manifesto for UK Infrastructure can be accessed at:  
[www.ice.org.uk/knowledge/Policy\\_statements.asp](http://www.ice.org.uk/knowledge/Policy_statements.asp)