



## PROJECT GOALS

The road infrastructure is an important link in the development of the road network that contributes to the economic development in terms of improved labour mobility and competitiveness through improved international road interconnectivity - one of the major factors influencing the development of any country.

Struma Motorway is part of Trans European Transport Corridor IV from Sofia, via Kulata, to Thessaloniki and provides the shortest route to connect the Danube River and the Aegean Sea, as well as the international ports of Lom and Thessaloniki. This makes it suitable for combined transport including the Danube River and the European inter canal network. The route is Bulgaria's busiest north-south connector and links six of the largest city centers in the west of the country: Vidin, Montana, Vratsa, Sofia, Pernik and Blagoevgrad. Sofia, Vidin and Blagoevgrad are considered main growth centers.

Struma Motorway is part of EU priority project № 7 for development of the Trans European Transport Network along the motorway axis from Igumenitsa/Patra, via Athens and Sofia, to Budapest.

The main goals of the project are: improvement of the national and the Trans European networks; reduced accidents numbers; improved traffic flows and increased vehicle speed through restriction removal; increase in the passenger and freight traffic; reduction in environmental pollution; providing improved travel conditions and better road user service.

## PROJECT FINANCING

On 10 June 2013, a contract for grant assistance was signed under Project № BG161P0004-2.0.01-0019 for preparation of Lot 3 of Struma Motorway. The financing is to the amount of BGN 7 776 928 and is provided from the Cohesion Fund through Operational Programme on Transport 2007 – 2013.

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The preparation of Struma Motorway Lot 3 includes three main activities:

■ **Preparation of preliminary design.** The main task of the designer is to determine the optimal alignment and develop a preliminary design of the tunnel and the road sections to a level of drawing and technical specifications detail which could later be used by participants in the design and construction tenders for each of the sub-Lots.

■ **Consultancy service from strategic advisor.** The strategic advisor will assist the employer in respect to the technical, financial, environmental and management aspects of the design process and will also assist in preparing the terms of reference for design, construction and supervision.

■ **Environmental consultant.** For the first time in Bulgaria, the consultant will work together with ecologists, in order to ensure technical solutions comply with environmental norms and applicable laws. Several areas included in „Natura 2000“ are affected by the project, so environmental issues are key factors in the selection of the final alignment. The environmental consultant will ensure that the selected alignment is environmentally and socially acceptable.

## NCSIP has conducted tenders under the Public Procurement Act for the appointment of contractors for the main activities related to design and management of the preparation process for Lot 3.

■ **Preliminary designer.** The contractor is Via Plan – Amberg JV, a joint venture between the Bulgarian company Via Plan Ltd., the Swiss company Amberg Engineering JSC and the Slovak company Amberg Engineering Slovakia Ltd. The contract value is BGN 1 999 950 excluding VAT. The designer started work in August 2013 and will make final delivery within 18 months.

■ **Strategic advisor.** The contractor is Sweco - Burda JV, a joint venture between the Bulgarian companies Iliia Burda Ltd. and Sweco Energoproekt JSC, the Swedish company Sweco Infrastructure JSC and the Slovak company Sweco Infraprojekt Sp.z.o.o. The contract value is BGN 1 183 000 excluding VAT. The advisor commenced in July 2013 and will make final delivery within 24 months.



■ **Environmental consultant.** The contractor is Dango Project Consult Ltd. and the contract value is BGN 64 770 excluding VAT. The consultant commenced in August 2013 and will make final delivery within 18 months.

## Supporting the main activities described above, the following activities have been awarded:

■ **Monitoring, analysis and assessment of animal mortality in the Kresna Gorge.** The goal is to determine animal mortality on the road, the impact on the population and to identify and propose possible ways to reduce the impact and protect the species. The activity for the period March 2013 – February 2014 is completed where four seasonal reports have been submitted and approved. The activity during the period March 2014 – February 2015 has been assigned upon public invitation procedure held to Chuhal Ltd. The contract value is BGN 23 900 excluding VAT. The consultant started work and the activities will be carried on within a 12 months period.

■ **Traffic monitoring in the Kresna Gorge.** Traffic information gathering, using remote sensing technologies, is initiated in the Kresna Gorge with intention to systematically gather and transmit, for usage and analysis, traffic data including: volumes; irregularity and speed of the vehicles. This will be used to evaluate impact prior to, throughout and after construction of Struma Motorway. The delivery and installation of the specialised equipment and software has been completed by the Spanish company „Traffic Network Solutions“ S.L. for the sum of BGN 49 720 excluding VAT. The system is operational since September 2013.

■ **Preparation of preliminary archeological studies.** The goal of the preliminary on-site archeological studies is to determine whether or not archeological and other items of cultural value exist in the proximity of the motorway's alignment. The results will be used as the basis for planning the on-site archeological studies prior to the construction stage. The activity has been assigned to the National Institute of Archaeology with Museum at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences on 31.03.2014 upon tender procedure conveyed. The contract is executed within the month of April 2014. The contract value is BGN 40 960 excluding VAT.

■ **Preparation of geological studies.** The geological studies will provide important information for the preliminary design of the tunnels and other large structures, as well as for investigating the complex geomorphologic and tectonic formations in the Kresna Gorge. Based on the results of these studies, a final design solution of the Lot 3 alignment, together with the dimensioning of the tunnels and bridges, will be prepared. The contractor Geops-Geotehnika-Consult JV has been appointed after a tender procedure. The contract will be signed within May 2014 and its value is BGN 1 496 465 excluding VAT.

## FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

■ **Design and build of road sections of Lot 3.1 and 3.3.** Restricted tender procedures are planned for these activities with pre-qualification of the candidates. The procedures will run parallel with the tenders for supervision and will be launched in the middle of 2014.

■ **Design and build of tunnels at Zhelezniitsa and Kresna Gorge.** Restricted tender procedures are planned for these activities with pre-qualification of the candidates. The procedures will run parallel with the tenders for supervision and will be launched in the beginning of 2015.



The Struma Motorway is approximately 150 km long and is located in the south-western part of the country, between the interchange at Daskalovo (near the town of Pernik) and the Bulgarian/Greek border near Kulata. The Motorway runs parallel to the Struma River, as well as through nature sites like the Kresna Gorge. The Motorway is divided into four lots. The construction of Lot 1, 2 and 4 and the preparation of Lot 3 are financed through Operational Programme on Transport 2007 – 2013. The implementation of Lot 3 is scheduled for the programme period 2014 - 2020.

**The preparation and implementation of Struma Motorway Lot 3 is to be carried out by the National Company Strategic Infrastructure Projects as prescribed by Article 28b of the Roads Act.**

### STRUMA MOTORWAY, LOT 3

Lot 3 is the most challenging section for implementation, since it runs along the Struma River and through the Kresna Gorge. A new dual, two-lane, A29 standard motorway is expected to be built for this section which is approximately 62 km long.

Lot 3 of Struma Motorway is divided into three sections which will be subject to a total of four procedures as follows:

■ **Lot 3.1**, from Blagoevgrad to Krupnik, is approximately 17 km long. The route goes around Byalo Pole, crosses the Struma River west of Blagoevgrad, runs east of Pokrovnik and re-crosses the Struma River south of Blagoevgrad. The route incorporates a tunnel, approximately 2 km long, near Zheleznitsa. The road section and the tunnel will be subject to two separate tender procedures;

■ **Lot 3.2**, from Krupnik to Kresna, is approximately 21 km long. It traverses mountainous terrain and is mostly comprised of a tunnel of an approximate length of 15,5 km in the Kresna Gorge.

■ **Lot 3.3**, from Kresna to Sandanski, is approximately 23 km long. The initial section runs between the existing railway and the river, passes through Strumiani, continues adjacent to the existing road and ends east of the current railway.



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Lot 3 Blagoevgrad - Sandanski  
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