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## First Contracts Awarded in Rail Link Study

(Juneau) – The initial contracts have been awarded in the Alaska-Canada Rail Link Feasibility Study, comprising the first two parts of a four-part market, technical, financial and public interest analysis.

The study will examine the economic viability of a rail system linking Alaska and northern British Columbia through the territory.

Over one million dollars in contracts has been awarded for this first stage of the study.

“We were very impressed by the capability and depth of expertise local companies demonstrated,” said Project Manager Kells Boland. “The work has been divided into smaller packages to give northern contractors access to the project, and we feel we are creating the very best team possible to tackle the requirements of the study.”

A selection committee appointed by the study’s joint Alaska-Canada Management Working Group conducted the evaluation process. The appraisal process was based on individual qualifications, experience and cost and special consideration was given to the value of local knowledge.

The feasibility study is being carried out on behalf of the Yukon Government and the State of Alaska.

“The quality of submissions made for a very challenging evaluation process and we anticipate the next round of qualifications to display an equally high level,” continued Boland.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks will administer a number of the subcontracts for the feasibility study in Alaska. These will cover a diverse range of data, including Alaska freight and passenger data development, pipeline construction traffic, route engineering analysis, and multimodal port access analysis.

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Detailed submission instructions for the study's financial analysis component are currently available on line at [www.alaskacanadarail.org](http://www.alaskacanadarail.org). Expressions of interest for this part of the project will be accepted up to October 27, 2005.

A primary purpose of a rail link is to foster economic development in Alaska, Yukon, and British Columbia. The completed study will provide long-term transportation planning data aimed at better integrating Alaska, Yukon and British Columbia with emerging international markets and supply chains.

The study is scheduled for completion next summer.

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