

## Facts & Figures: Approval Procedure

6 May 2011

- The construction of the Fehmarnbelt Fixed Link must be approved in both Denmark and Germany in the course of specific procedures.
- No final decision has yet been made as to whether the link will be a bridge or a tunnel. However, in November 2010, Femern A/S recommended an immersed tunnel on the basis of the study results available to date. The Danish Minister for Transport confirmed this recommendation in February 2011. The final decision will be taken within the framework of the approval procedures in Germany and Denmark.
- In Germany, a plan approval process must be completed for the part of the project located on German territory. In Denmark, the part of the project located on Danish territory will be approved by a Construction Act being passed.
- In 2014, the plan is for the first sod to be cut in one of the biggest construction projects in Europe. The Fehmarnbelt Fixed Link is planned to be opened to traffic in 2020.

### Plan approval process

- The plan approval authority is the State Agency for Roadbuilding and Traffic of Schleswig-Holstein (Kiel office).
- In the course of the implementation of the plan approval process, the plan approval authority carries out an environmental impact assessment. For this purpose, Femern A/S compiles an environmental impact study (EIS), which will constitute part of the groundwork of the environmental impact assessment.
- Femern A/S is the developer of the Fehmarnbelt Fixed Link for the section from coast to coast, including the ramp and connection area belonging to the project between the coast and the connection to the existing rail and road networks on the German side. Femern A/S prepares the plan approval documents with the State Agency for Roadbuilding and Traffic of Schleswig-Holstein (Lübeck office), the developer of the German road section of the Fehmarnbelt Fixed Link. The hinterland infrastructure involves separate projects that are subject to separate procedures.
- Femern A/S is preparing the application materials for the German plan approval process, which describe and explain the position, form and composition of the Fixed Fehmarnbelt Link, as well as consequences for the environment and third parties (e.g. land

Femern A/S is tasked with designing and planning of a fixed link between Denmark and Germany across the Fehmarnbelt. Femern A/S is a subsidiary of the Danish, state-owned Sund & Bælt Holding A/S, which has experience from the construction of the fixed links across the Great Belt and the Øresund.

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owners). The plan is for the final application for plan approval in Germany to be submitted in 2012.

- During the plan approval process, authorities, organisations and people affected may submit opinions on and objections to the construction project, on which the plan approval authority will take a final decision in the course of the overall plan approval.
- The formal plan approval process in Germany is expected to take around 18 months.
- Therefore, the assumption is that the German approval will be issued in 2013.

## **Construction Act**

- In Denmark, the project will be approved by a Construction Act being passed by the Folketing. This is expected to take place in 2013.
- There will be an independent formal consultation process for the environmental impact study in Denmark, in which everyone can make reservations and comments.
- All comments are taken into consideration in a so-called environmental impact assessment white paper which is subsequently published.
- The next step consists in the initiation of the legislative procedure for the Construction Act in the Folketing. The essential features of the project are established with the Construction Act. The Construction Act also contains authorisation for the financing of the construction costs. Prior to three readings in the Folketing, the Construction Act will be subject to public hearing.