

FM Conway set to light up London's bridges for phase 2 of the Illuminated River project

For Press release 12th May 2020

Leading infrastructure services company FM Conway has secured the second phase of the Illuminated River project – a major public art commission for the capital's bridges.

Designed by artist Leo Villareal and architects Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands, Illuminated River aims to celebrate London's historic links with its river through the installation of an LED artwork that lights up 14 central London bridges, from Albert to Tower Bridge. Once complete, the artwork, which will span 4.5 nautical miles of the River Thames, will be the longest public art commission in the world.

The successful installation of phase one saw FM Conway light London, Southwark, Cannon Street Railway and Millennium bridges. This phase was delivered through close collaboration with the Illuminated River Foundation, and saw the teams overcome unique challenges such as protecting nesting birds within Cannon Street Railway Bridge's piers. The birds could not be disturbed, so the teams worked around them to deliver the project on time.

Phase two will see the illumination of Blackfriars, Waterloo, Golden Jubilee, Westminster and Lambeth bridges; all planned for delivery at the same time. A staggering 4,000 light fittings, 15km of power and data cabling and 250,000 bolts and fixings are expected to be used on the project

Matt Smith, Structures Director at FM Conway, commented: "We are delighted to be awarded phase two of this prestigious project. Our expertise and proven track-record in lighting London's structures saw us successfully light the first four bridges, and we are looking forward to bringing our expertise to the next five bridges as part of this iconic art installation".

Sarah Gaventa, Director at the Illuminated River Foundation, commented: "We are excited to be working with FM Conway again for the second phase of Illuminated River, a landmark project for London. We hope that this free and accessible project will open up the riverside public realm spaces and encourage visitors to explore London's attractions at night."

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About FM Conway

FM Conway is a leading infrastructure services company delivering vital services in transportation, the built environment and open spaces for communities and businesses.

We inspect, design, build, enhance and maintain essential infrastructure services for the community. We are of London's leading highways contractors, providing highways services for around half of the capital's boroughs, demonstrating the strength of our term maintenance offer which is underpinned by our unique approach to self-delivery.

With more than 58 years' experience, we pride ourselves on being an industry leader and innovator, especially in recycling and reuse. We have a network of asphalt and aggregate recycling manufacturing plants serving London and the south of England, as well as a Thames side wharf and our own research and development laboratory. We have the ability to produce asphalt with a high recycled content and low carbon footprint.

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We are a member of the British Safety Council, the Civil Engineering Contractors' Association, the Chartered Institute of Highways Transportation and the Quarry Products Association, as well as being BSI registered for environmental, quality, occupational health and safety, and road traffic safety management.

Please visit www.fmconway.co.uk

