

# PRESS RELEASE

## Huge Benefits from Developing Supply Chain Expected

Willmott Dixon, a major construction company, has decided to develop and improve its supply chain by paying for selected companies on its supplier list to take part in the BEST East programme. In providing support to the BEST East programme they are demonstrating their commitment to Clients that they are serious when it comes to continuously improving their services.

They are aware that their own performance is dependant upon the supply chain tiers that they manage and that they use to provide services to Clients. If they can make these supply chains more efficient, effective and responsive then increased Client service can be achieved. Their collaborative supply chain approach should enable greater success to be achieved with the benefit of a continuing work load.

The BEST East programme is focussed on helping construction's small and medium enterprises (SMEs) be more efficient and effective in their systems and processes and equip them for future opportunities in a lean, low carbon economy. This is not only vital for their future development and growth, but also allows them to be more competitive and efficient when providing services to larger contractors and Clients. This collaborative approach will stimulate greater regional growth, prosperity and be a catalyst for a healthy future economy.

Ian Smith director of Willmott Dixon said *"the supply chain is a vital part of providing clients with the best service, so it makes excellent business sense sponsor the supply chain's entry to the programme. We believe improvements in how the supply chain works together and what they learn to improve products and services will significantly improve value to clients"*.

Best East provides a flexible mix of one day workshop modules to cover a wide range of topics to help improve performance. Companies in the programme learn how to collaborate and develop low cost, low carbon products and services. As part of the programme they are required to develop a plan showing how they will implement what they have learnt and the gains expected.

BEST East is made possible by a £2 million contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) which is managed by the East of England Development Agency. BEST East is also part of the government's Solutions for Business with a whole range of programmes accessed through Business Link.

John Hall project manager for BEST East explained that huge gains are expected from just helping organisations work together in a more efficient and effective way and will contribute to the Government's drive to save and still reduce carbon.

The Willmott Dixon programme will start with an initial workshop for a select group from the supplier list and gradually develop to encompass the whole supply chain.

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Over the life of the three-year BEST East programme 900 SME organisation's are expected to take part in the programme, making a significant contribution to improving the construction supply chain.

To find out more about the programme and how you can take part visit [www.besteast.org.uk](http://www.besteast.org.uk).

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## **Notes to Editors**

### **About the European Regional Development Fund**

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is a seven-year investment programme part financed by the European Union. Its objective is 'towards low carbon economic growth' in the East of England and €110.9 million has been allocated to our region.

The fund aims to help small and medium size enterprises respond to the challenges of climate change and the huge commercial potential behind a low carbon economy.

With more funding available until 2013, the ERDF programme is set to play a big role in helping our businesses and communities seize the opportunities of a low carbon economy.

For more information visit [www.eeda.org.uk/erdf](http://www.eeda.org.uk/erdf)

### **About BEST East**

BEST East is delivered by a partnership of Constructing Excellence East, BRE, The Collaborative Working Centre, Build the East and Inspire East. BEST East is owned by a co-operative with client members. BEST East is non-profit making working for the benefit of its clients.

### **About Willmott Dixon Construction**

Willmott Dixon was founded in 1852 and is now one of the UK's largest privately owned construction companies. It currently employs over 800 people and carries out projects across England and Wales. Willmott Dixon believes actions speak louder than words when it comes to operating on a sustainable basis. All its sites adhere to Constructing Excellence's environmental KPIs, which set strict targets for dealing with key areas like waste, recycling, transport, water and energy usage. It is a founding member of the UK Green Building Council to drive better sustainable standards in the built environment, and is also a strategic partner of Forum for the Future.

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