



MINISTRY OF
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION,
TOURISM & TRANSPORT
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT



**VERDANT ISLE PORT PARTNERS SUBMIT
EIA SCOPING UPDATE
TO ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD**

Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands (21 January, 2019) The Cayman Islands Government and Verdant Isle Port Partners (Verdant), the preferred bidders for the proposed cruise berthing and cargo enhancement project, have confirmed that an Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Update was submitted by Verdant to the Cayman Islands Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) on Tuesday 21st January.

The Scoping Document was authored by Baird who were contracted by the Ministry of District Administration, Tourism and Transport to carry out the initial 2015 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Royal HaskoningDHV was engaged by the Cayman Islands Government to conduct a peer review of the EIA Scoping Update.

The EIA Scoping Update takes into consideration the revised design of the proposed cruise berthing and cargo enhancement project submitted by Verdant after being announced as the preferred bidder in 2019, whereas the 2015 EIA was developed as part of the original RFP process.

The submission of the Scoping Update represents the next stage in a series of agreed project phases that must occur before Verdant can apply for the Coastal Works Permits associated with the Construction Activities. This process is also subject to the outcome of the referendum. A number of additional studies are scheduled to take place under an 'Early Works Agreement' currently being finalised.

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About Baird

Baird has extensive experience in the planning, design and construction of coastal and marine engineering projects throughout the Caribbean region and around the world, and has an international reputation for the development of innovative and practical solutions to a wide range of complex problems in the coastal and marine environment.

Of particular relevance, Baird were the lead consultant for the original Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Cayman Cruise Berthing and Cargo Enhanced Facility (CBCEF), and worked closely with the Cayman Islands Department of Environment (DOE) over the 18 month duration of this study to complete a comprehensive study that was fully responsive to the Terms of Reference developed by the DOE.

This study included stakeholder engagement, public consultation, definition of baseline conditions, development of alternative project layouts, assessment of anticipated environmental and socio-economic impacts of project construction and operations (direct and indirect), and the identification of possible mitigation measures within 15 subject areas. The study results were documented in a detailed Environmental Statement (ES) with supporting technical appendices. The key results were summarized in a Non-Technical Summary and were presented at a public meeting attended by approximately 200 people. The final ES considered feedback from the public, including written comments provided by almost 500 individuals. The results of the EIA study, which was completed in 2015, have guided the subsequent planning and design development for the project.

Baird has also been involved with significant EIA and/or engineering design studies for many other major marine projects in the Caribbean region and beyond. Of particular relevance, Baird was the Prime Consultant for an EIA and comprehensive Front End Engineering Design Study for a proposed cruise berthing facility in Bridgetown, Barbados. This project included the use of navigation simulations and extensive numerical and physical modeling to support the planning and design of this project, which is very similar to the proposed CBCEF.

About Royal HaskoningDHV

Royal HaskoningDHV is a leading independent, international project management, engineering and environmental consultancy service provider. Their reputation for multidisciplinary civil engineering excellence in the development of maritime, marine and waterways structures is world renowned. Collaborating closely with their clients, they plan, design and build safe, sustainable and environmentally sound facilities around the world. The company's 6000 staff provide services across the world from more than 100 offices in over 35 countries.

Environmental and Social Performance Services is one of Royal HaskoningDHV's areas of top expertise with over 350 staff globally and they have more than 35 years' experience in delivering Environmental and Social Consultancy Services worldwide. Clients range from major multinationals, to large and medium sized companies, from national government to local authorities, to a number of international financing institutions.

Royal HaskoningDHV has been coordinating, managing and undertaking complex Environmental Impact Assessments for maritime developments since the early-1990s. Our organisation holds the EIA Quality Mark, which indicates that Royal HaskoningDHV is a 'Registered Environmental Impact Assessor'. This membership provides a clear indication to our clients that we are at the forefront of undertaking EIA in accordance with current best practice standards. The EIA Quality Mark is a voluntary scheme, operated by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, through which EIA activity is independently reviewed, on an annual basis, to ensure it delivers excellence in the following areas:

- EIA management.
- EIA team capabilities.
- EIA regulatory compliance.
- EIA context and influence.
- EIA content and presentation.
- Improving EIA practice.

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