



PRESS RELEASE

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Ricardo water practice grows as UK customers aim for strategic resilience

Ricardo has secured multiple new framework agreements with UK water companies – providing consulting support across a range of environmental and water resource planning areas of specialization – representing a significant increase in business for its water sector practice

The strategic agenda for the water industry in England and Wales is defined by the economic regulator, Ofwat, in its five-year asset management planning periods. For the seventh control period (AMP7) which runs from 2020 to 2025, key themes of focus include customer service and affordability, long-term financial, corporate and operational resilience, and innovation. Ensuring companies can meet future water demands is a key area of investment with up to £469m allocated in England alone for planning of future strategic integration of resources between regions, in addition to funding for schemes within each water company region.

Since December 2019, Ricardo has secured framework agreements with many of the largest water companies – including Southern Water, United Utilities, Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water, Yorkshire Water, Thames Water and Bristol Water – to support them in planning the long term future for sustainable water resources. Under the terms of these flexible agreements, the water companies can draw upon a wide range of Ricardo services, technologies and expertise, as they strive to deliver the outcomes agreed with Ofwat under AMP7. Ricardo's expertise in delivering services under these framework agreements focuses on initiatives and projects including on

strategic environmental assessments, terrestrial and aquatic ecology surveys, habitats regulations assessment and water framework directive assessments.



Ricardo has already begun work across a number of the new framework agreements. Even during the Covid-19 pandemic the company's experts have been providing support to maintain momentum in development of strategic water resource options to help meet the regulatory deadlines.

Rupert Kruger, Ricardo's water practice director, commented: "The new framework agreements we have secured with the major water sector utility companies – and the resulting opportunities that arise from them – will be a significant contribution to the development of the UK's water sector over the next five years. This is testament to the depth of expertise of our multidisciplinary team of water industry experts. As a team we are proud of the assistance we can provide to water companies as they strive to improve the strategic resilience of our critical national water infrastructure and ensure that future generations have the water that they need."

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Ricardo plc is a global, world-class, multi-industry consultancy for engineering, technology, project innovation and strategy. Our people are committed to providing outstanding value through quality engineering solutions focused on high efficiency, low emission, class-leading product innovation and robust strategic implementation. With a century of delivering excellence and value through technology, our client list includes the world's major transportation original equipment manufacturers, supply chain organizations, energy companies, financial institutions and governments. Guided by our corporate values of respect, integrity, creativity & innovation and passion, we enable our customers to achieve sustainable growth and commercial success. Ricardo is listed in the FTSE4Good Index, which identifies global companies that demonstrate strong environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices. For more information, visit www.ricardo.com.

Ricardo Energy & Environment is a leading sustainability consultancy, helping clients to respond to environmental challenges and opportunities around the world. Its team of over 450 staff draws on an impressive heritage supporting governments and businesses for over 40 years. The consultancy is an operating division of Ricardo plc. For more information, visit <https://ee.ricardo.com/>

Media contacts:

Trevor Glue
Ricardo Energy & Environment
Tel: +44 (0) 1235 753429
E-mail: trevor.glue@ricardo.com

Anthony Smith
Ricardo Media Office
Tel: +44 (0)1273 382710
E-mail: media@ricardo.com