Possibilities for early contractor involvement in infrastructure projects in the Netherlands.

Introduction
For most infrastructure projects in the Netherlands, a procurement procedure needs to be followed. Both client as well as the contractor would like this procedure to be improved. The method to improve this procedure is the main focus of my thesis.

Problem definition
Both client as well as contractor would like to see the procurement procedure in the Netherlands to be accelerated, more clear and based on functional specifications instead of a too detailed design and to have more contractor involvement, a fair distribution of the risks and less cost overruns. It is tried to solve this by making adjustments to the current system, but it is time to completely break new grounds. Early contractor involvement (ECI) seems to be a proper approach that can live up to these desires.

Research
My research focused on suitable infrastructure projects on the Dutch horizon to serve as pilot projects for the application of ECI in the Netherlands. To achieve my goal, a special approach was developed. This approach was divided in four phases:
1. Analysis of the current situation: exploration of the traditional development of infrastructure projects and the improvement experienced in the field.
2. Exploration to ECI: to be able to search for suitable projects for the application of ECI, it is important to know what ECI exactly is, what its advantages and disadvantages are and what kind of applications there are in practice.
3. Exploration to the alternatives for ECI: to make sure ECI indeed is the right approach to live up to the desires, it is compared with its alternatives.
4. Search for suitable infrastructure projects on the Dutch horizon.

Results
1. Early contractor involvement probably is the right approach to live up to the experienced improvements
2. There are three different models available for the application of ECI.
   - Cost led procurement
   - Integrated project insurance
   - Two stage open book
3. Pilot projects should have
   - a repetitive but challenging character,
   - a low social complexity and a high technical complexity
   - a turnaround time from five years or less
4. There are three projects selected to serve as pilot projects for the application of early contractor involvement in the Netherlands
   - A58 St. Annabosch – Galders: Two stage open book
   - Capacity expansion Volkeraksluizen: Integrated project insurance
   - A27 Houten – Hooipolder: Two stage open book

Conclusions and recommendations
Early contractor involvement seems to be the right approach to live up to the improvements experienced in the field. Three projects are selected to serve as pilots, but further research into the precise approach, experiences in other countries and opportunities for cost led procurement is necessary to create full understanding.

Student: C.C. van Huuksloot
Committee: M.J.C.M. Hertogh, L.P.I.M. Hombergen, W.M. de Jong, E. Aal & C.Q. Klap
For more information you can contact the section construction management and engineering, tel. 015-2784774