



For Immediate Release

March 14, 2005

For more information contact:

Darryl Jordan, (907) 269-6698

Wilbur Smith Associates Chosen for Knik Arm Bridge Project

March 14, 2005 (Anchorage, AK) The Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority (KABATA) today announced that **Wilbur Smith Associates**, a consulting firm located in New Haven, Connecticut, had been selected to join the team of engineers, planners, economists and environmentalists working on the Knik Arm bridge project. Wilbur Smith Associates will serve as the Toll and Traffic Engineers to the project developing the financial feasibility study to determine potential toll and traffic usage of the facility.

Wilbur Smith Associates will initially conduct a preliminary feasibility assessment of the Knik Arm bridge project focusing on potential traffic usage as a result of economic development as well as the ability of the tolls to offset the costs of constructing, maintaining and operating the project. The study results will be developed over the next several months with findings due to KABATA this summer.

Partial funding for the Knik Arm bridge project has been included in the U.S. House of Representatives passage of the Transportation Bill. “Wilbur Smith’s work will lay the ground work for an investment grade opinion of the project’s borrowing capacity. As a toll authority, KABATA will finance construction with a combination of Federal, State, and local funds and commercial revenue bonds” said George Wuerch, chairman of the board.

Wilbur Smith Associates was founded in 1952 in New Haven and since that time has developed study projects that have resulted in the financing and construction of more than \$60 billion of toll facility infrastructure throughout the world. Included on this list of facilities is the “Chunnel,” the link between England and France, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel and numerous toll roads and bridges in the United States, Canada, South America, Europe and Asia.

You can learn more about this project at www.knikarmbridge.com.

###