

10 British firms vie for railway studies

By Carmen Cheung

ACCORDING to the short-list of 27 consultant firms bidding for 11 technical studies contracts for the Western Corridor Railway (WCR), at least 10 are based in Britain or are British firms in partnership with United States, Australian or local representatives.

Most — like British-based Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick (HK) Ltd — are experienced in huge construction projects.

Among the bidders are:

■ The multi-consultancy UK-US consortium Mott Connell-De Leuw, Cather Joint Venture was established expressly to bid for consultancy work on the new airport;

■ Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd has sought the most work — bidding on six of the 11 technical studies. The company is famous in Hong Kong and has participated in many high-rise development projects;

■ Mott Connell-De Leuw, Cather JV has bid for four technical studies and Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick (HK) Ltd has tried for two projects;

■ Maunsell Consultants Asia Ltd, which has bid for three technical studies, is the largest consultant firm in Hong Kong. It has at least 25 years of experience in the territory and links with a firm in Australia;

■ Parsons Brinckerhoff (Asia) Ltd, which has bid for three technical studies, is a famous US company and has been in Hong Kong for nearly 18 years.

Parsons helped build the Cross Harbour Tunnel and the Mass Transit Railway;

■ Dennis Lau & Ng Chun Man Architects & Engineers (HK) Ltd, a local company, has participated building Central Plaza and the Chinese Foreign Ministry's local headquarters; and

■ Wong and Ouyang, another famous local architectural firm.

The list, prepared by the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC) and submitted by the government, was delivered to legislators yesterday.