Trelleborg’s engineered products operation has broken into the American tunnel market with its range of high performance seals, for the construction of a second Midtown Tunnel between Portsmouth and Norfolk, Virginia, USA.

The Elizabeth River Tunnels project is a $2.1 billion Public Private Partnership (P3) project comprised of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) as infrastructure owner and Elizabeth River Crossings OpCo, LLC (ERC) as the private company financing, designing, operating and maintaining the project for a term of 58 years. ERC contracted with SKW Constructors, JV (SKW), as the design build contractor. SKW is a joint venture formed by Skanska, Kiewit and Weeks Marine. Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) is the lead designer supporting SKW.

The immersed tunnel consists of 11 rectangular concrete tunnel elements, each of which has been fitted with Trelleborg’s Gina and Omega gaskets to prevent water ingress. Trelleborg was specified by PB due to the high stability, flexibility and low ageing behaviour of its seals.

Andre de Graaf, sales manager for Trelleborg’s engineered products, says: “Immersed tunnels are on the increase, especially in the US where investment for infrastructure is growing. But in a marketplace where local suppliers are often the first choice, we thought it may prove challenging to get our names on the roster, especially as our products had never been used in the region before.”

Trelleborg’s Gina gasket is made from natural rubber combined with different hardness’s and is supplied as a closed rectangular frame, to seal each sectional element. The Omega seal connects each segment together and is made from multiple layers of styrene butadiene rubber and Nylon inlayers to improve durability. The combination of the two seals enables the transfer of hydrostatic loads and movements between the tunnel ends, caused by soil settlement, creep of concrete, temperature effects and earthquakes.

Each 48 meter circumference tunnel element will be immersed beneath the Elizabeth River to relieve congestion for the original Midtown Tunnel, which currently carries approximately one million vehicles every month between the two cities. In addition, the new tunnel will
improve safety by eliminating bi-directional traffic, as in the first Midtown Tunnel. The second Midtown Tunnel is expected for completion in the final quarter of 2016.

For more information about Trelleborg’s engineered products operation, or any of its products and solutions, please visit the Trelleborg Engineered Products website.

-ENDS-

For additional information on the portfolio of Trelleborg’s engineered products operation, call Jacco Vonk, Direct: +31 180 495 555, Email jacco.vonk@trelleborg.com.

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Notes to Editors:
Trelleborg engineered products operation and Trelleborg Group
Part of the Trelleborg Offshore & Construction business area of Trelleborg Group, the Trelleborg engineered products operation is a leading global developer, manufacturer and provider of engineered polymer solutions to the energy, infrastructure and mining industries. Performing in some of the harshest environments on earth, its principal products are sealing systems for tunnels, a wide range of bearings, polymer solutions for floatover technology and wear resistant products for the mining industry. With local support, a track record of over 100 years and its everyday ingenuity, customers can rely on Trelleborg’s engineered products operation to deliver innovative polymer solutions that significantly improve the quality, safety and efficiency of its customers’ operations worldwide www.trelleborg.com/engineeredproducts.

Trelleborg is a world leader in engineered polymer solutions that seal, damp and protect critical applications in demanding environments. Its innovative engineered solutions accelerate performance for customers in a sustainable way. The Trelleborg Group has annual sales of about SEK 22 billion (EUR 2.48 billion, USD 3.29 billion) in over 40 countries. The Group comprises five business areas: Trelleborg Coated Systems, Trelleborg Industrial Solutions, Trelleborg Offshore & Construction, Trelleborg Sealing Solutions and Trelleborg Wheel Systems. In addition, Trelleborg owns 50 percent of TrelleborgVibracoustic, a global leader within antivibration solutions for light and heavy vehicles, with annual sales of approximately SEK 16 billion (EUR 1.78 billion, USD 2.36 billion) in about 20 countries. The Trelleborg share has been listed on the Stock Exchange since 1964 and is listed on Nasdaq Stockholm, Large Cap. www.trelleborg.com.