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Go-ahead for RAKEL project

The Swedish Supreme Administrative Court's decision not to grant leave to appeal in the case of a reconsideration in accordance with the Act on Public Procurement means that the Swedish Defence Materiel Administration's procurement of the RAKEL shared radio communication system can go ahead. The decision is a good one for Sweden and means that the consortium of Saab, Nokia and Eltel Networks (formerly Swedia Networks) can begin expanding the RAKEL project.

"The Supreme Administrative Court's decision is good for the safety and security authorities, and for the Swedish people. The new radio communication system will enable faster, better response in the event of major and minor accidents, illness, fire and other instances that require emergency services. "The key issue now is to get started in earnest. From construction start-up it will be around nine months before the network is up and running operationally in the first phase in southern Sweden," says Saab Contracting's Hans Brohmé, spokesman for the consortium.

Saab, Nokia and Eltel Networks' commitment encompasses systems and infrastructure built on the TETRA standard. It also includes construction, operation, maintenance and training for all of Sweden's safety and security authorities such as the police, municipal rescue services, customs, coast guard and armed forces. Parliament has made a provision of SEK 2.3 billion for expansion of the new radio communication system, which will also include operation and maintenance.

"We are very pleased that our consortium can now make a start on the shared radio communication system for the emergency services," says Hans Brohmé. In the field of digital radio communication and the TETRA standard, Nokia is a supplier to more than 50 organizations worldwide. Eltel Networks has 30 years' experience of operating and maintaining radio systems for the security authorities. Saab's more than 40 years in telecom and systems integration makes the consortium complete. Altogether it provides the most powerful, user-friendly and cost-effective solution for the emergency services.

For further information, please contact Hans Brohmé of Saab Contracting, spokesman for the consortium, on +46 (0)708-19 64 00.