

Press release

Copenhagen, 15 October 2020

## **COWI A/S, Dissing+Weitling and Arkitema win international competition on a new rail bridge in Oxberg, Sweden**

**The new signature bridge of Österdal River will be designed by a team composed of the engineering company COWI, bridge architects Dissing+Weitling, and, on the landscaping side, Arkitema. This experienced team has just won the international bridge competition organised by the Swedish Transport Administration. The competition included five international pre-qualified teams.**

The new Oxberg rail bridge and a separate road bridge will replace one of Sweden's few remaining fully combined road and rail bridges spanning the Österdal River north of Oxberg in Dalecarlia (*Dalarna* in Sweden). A striking bridge will be built as a replacement for the existing bridge in the scenic area that hosts the world's biggest cross-country ski race, Vasaloppet. The architectural and constructional values of the bridge weave into the history of a special place and point to the future in terms of design.

Niels Bitsch, Project Director at COWI A/S says:

- In addition to the statics and the special considerations we must take when designing a rail bridge, one of the particular engineering challenges of the project is the water flow of the Österdal River, which causes considerable erosion around the supporting structures of the bridge. We had to fit the bridge into the topography of the area, and consider the aquatic environment as well as the unique nature and wildlife on both sides of the river during and after the actual construction. Moreover, we've worked on designing a relatively simple steel construction that is easy to maintain, and which can be manufactured and fitted smoothly and efficiently.

Jesper B. Henriksen, Partner and Architect at Dissing+Weitling says about the bridge design:

- The bridge will have a simple and elegant design – with a dynamic appearance that naturally blends in with the surroundings and speaks to the history and position of the place in relation to a world-famous cross-country ski race. We've created a design which, together with all technical, environmental and aesthetic qualities, can become the landmark that the town wants. Our solution simulates the movement of a skier and is beautifully lit. With its moderate scale, it confirms that we're in the countryside, but in a valuable context. The large crystalline surfaces will sparkle in the light and create a harmonious interaction with the water and nature.

When explaining their decision to choose the Danish bridge design, the jury said:

- "Kinetik" is a fully fledged proposal, in which form, construction and feasibility have been weighted equally, and demonstrates a very successful collaboration between architect and engineer. The two bridges have been designed as an architectural unity and appear as a beautiful silhouette from a distance – but they have also been designed down to the last detail and have qualities even close up.

COWI and Dissing+Weitling have worked together for decades on customised bridge and mobility solutions in many sizes, environments and countries. In Sweden, the team is behind the Botnia Line along the east coast in the north, and both companies are involved in the Munksjö Bridge in Jönköping, the Hising Bridge in Gothenburg and the Skuru Bridge near Stockholm.

The Oxberg Bridge is scheduled to be completed in 2024.

**For more information, contact**

Charlotte Holm, Group Media Relations Manager, COWI A/S

E: [chhm@cowi.com](mailto:chhm@cowi.com), M: + 45 4176 1989

[www.cowi.dk](http://www.cowi.dk)

Susanne Bendsen, Head of Communications, Dissing+Weitling

E: [sub@dw.dk](mailto:sub@dw.dk), M: +45 2896 2128

[www.dw.dk](http://www.dw.dk)