

For Immediate Release

7 March 2006

## **Hedra-managed PARSOL project wins National Award**

Hedra plc is pleased to announce the Planning and Regulatory Services Online (PARSOL) project, which was managed by Hedra since its inception, was recently announced as winner of this year's 'Award for Planning Process (e-Planning)' at the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Planning Awards 2005.

The £6 million PARSOL National Project, which is led by Wandsworth Borough Council and funded by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), was launched in April 2003. The project's key objective is to encourage and facilitate the provision of online Planning, Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Building Control services through the provision of systems, standards and advice and guidance. It aims to assist the delivery of nationally consistent information and planning plus property-based regulatory advice, to all sectors of the community, 24 hours a day. It also aims to improve the consultation and flow of information between local authorities and national agencies.

Hedra managed the PARSOL National Project from its inception and has provided a wide range of supporting management and consultancy services to this major e-government programme.

Commenting on the RTPI award, Stuart Melvin, PARSOL Programme Manager, Hedra plc, said: "The PARSOL team is delighted that the project has received such recognition with this coveted award. It has been an exciting project for Hedra to work on, with a consortium of local authorities, professional organisations and central government, and we are honoured to be named as a key participant on the award certificate. It is a credit to PARSOL and everyone involved that the project is perceived as one of the most successful of the ODPM sponsored National Projects and we are proud of the project's achievement."

More...

As an integral part of the programme, Hedra has also assisted Wandsworth in determining new ownership structures for PARSOL Regulatory Services that will provide the longer term mechanisms required to secure ongoing take-up and support of the delivered products. In addition, Hedra services provided to PARSOL include:

**Programme Management** – Hedra has been responsible for all programme management aspects of PARSOL including definition of plans, objectives setting, communication and co-ordination, progress tracking, financial management, third party liaison and relationships with the ODPM sponsor.

**Commercial Consultancy** – Hedra has assisted Wandsworth in developing and implementing business plans aimed at securing the long term future of the products (including the creation of a commercial partnership between Wandsworth and Cintra Corporation UK covering the project's online licensing product, Regalion).

**Best Practice Consultancy** – Hedra has conducted a range of research based activities in order to define and document instances of 'best practice' within various local government service departments.

**Marketing and Administrative Support** – Various back-up services have also been provided by Hedra throughout the life of the project, including a range of marketing and communications consultancy services.

The RTPI Planning Awards 2005 were held at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London in February and commenting on the decision to award PARSOL the award, the judges said: "The great value of the PARSOL products is that they have been developed for councils by practising local authority officers who understand the complexity of the planning system. The development of the products has enabled common understanding of definitions and techniques and generated consistency and unanimity about service delivery. Ground breaking work by the leading councils has saved the other 400 local authorities from having to reinvent the wheel. It has released staff time from mundane back-room administrative tasks to focus more on value-added planning functions."

- Ends -

## **Notes to Editors**

### **About Hedra plc**

Hedra plc is a consulting, solutions and service company. We are the largest consultancy specialising in UK public services, with a significant private sector capability. Our clients include central government, local government, NHS, Ministry of Defence, aerospace, utilities and energy and a wide range of public service agencies. Our capabilities include business change and transformation, customer services, corporate services, procurement and supply chain, information management and systems engineering services. We help organisations to set corporate direction, build their organisational capacity and deliver solutions that drive effectiveness and efficiency. Our commitment is to deliver outcomes and benefits that drive superior performance.

[www.hedra.com](http://www.hedra.com)

### **For further information, please contact:**

Kelly Russ, Corporate Marketing Manager, Hedra plc

Tel: 01252 772920

Email: [kelly.russ@hedra.com](mailto:kelly.russ@hedra.com)