

## The Bridge of Scottish Invention

The Bridge of Scottish Invention is another Millennium project in which Bennett Associates has been involved. Situated over the River Irvine in Scotland the unique bridge connects Irvine Harbourside and Maritime Museum to the "The Big Idea", the highly successful permanent Millennium exhibition on the Ardeer Peninsula.

Bennett Associates was commissioned at the beginning of 1998 by 'The Big Idea' to assist in the design of an innovative footbridge. The sliding opening bridge as designed is 80m long and retracts 16.5m to leave a clear navigation channel for boats leaving Irvine Harbour. The bridge is the closest movable river bridge to the open sea in Britain.

This attractive novel design also offered a saving when compared to the more traditional movable bridges.

A chain drive mechanism operates the large movable span of the bridge which runs on rollers mounted on piers in mid river and on rails on the north bank. When closed the movable span of the bridge docks with the fixed harbourside span.

Bennett Associates was responsible for the detail design of the structure, and the mechanical and electrical control systems.

Bennett Associates (originally founded in 1984) was acquired in 2008 by Atkins; bringing their proven technical expertise to the UK's leading engineering consultancy.

