

News Release



Docklands

Docklands Light Railway — The Beckton Extension

1 August 1989

NEW TRAINS ORDERED FOR THE DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAILWAY

An order has been placed today for a further 23 vehicles to run on the Docklands Light Railway and its extensions.

London Regional Transport (LRT) has now fully exercised its option with BN Constructions Ferroviaires et Metalliques SA, a Belgian company, to build 34 of the new generation vehicles - making 44 in total - which will incorporate the improved feature of sliding doors. Chippenham based Hawker-Siddley Rail Projects will supply the major sub-systems. The vehicles will be assembled at BN's factories in Belgium. The first 10 of the 44 vehicles were ordered from BN in January this year for the Bank Extension.

The rolling stock contract is one of four contracts to be let for the £240M Beckton Extension of the Docklands Light Railway. Construction of the 8 km Beckton Extension, scheduled to start this Autumn and open at the end of 1992, will be funded by the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC). In addition the LDDC will fund 28 of the 34 vehicles on order with BN for the Beckton Extension. LRT will pay for the remaining six and for part of the Beckton Depot.

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LDDC Chief Executive, Michael Honey, commented: "We are delighted that, with the full support of Government, we can now proceed with the Beckton Extension of the Railway. This will undoubtedly help to secure the lasting regeneration of the Royal Docks. Perhaps more importantly we have achieved a new public transport system to serve the growing residential and business communities in the Isle of Dogs, Blackwall, Leamouth and the Royals."

Kenneth Fergusson, Managing Director of the Docklands Light Railway said: "This additional order for trains is in accordance with the decision made in January, when the first 10 vehicles of a new design were ordered for the Bank Extension. Subsequently the number increased to 21 in May, and this announcement now brings the total of second generation trains now on order from BN/Hawker Siddeley to 44, completing the requirement of DLR for trains up to 1992. The placing of this order is the first major commitment, following approval to build the Beckton extension. The first construction contract should be signed shortly."

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Note to Editors

1. Royal Assent for the Bill authorising construction of the DLR Beckton Extension was granted on 21 July 1989.

2. The Beckton Extension is divided into four contracts:

Contract 1: Construction of the railway between West India Dock Road and Prestons Road, including a new junction and reconstruction of Poplar Station. Tenders have been received and are currently being assessed.

Contract 2: Construction of the railway between Prestons Road and Beckton. Tenders are due back in early September and it is hoped to award the contract in November.

Contract 3: Forty four vehicles on order from BN for the Bank and Beckton Extensions.

Contract 4: Automated fare collection equipment. Tenders have been received and are currently being assessed.

3. At present the Docklands Light Railway has 11 trains in service, and another 10 vehicles are being built by British Rail Engineering Ltd in York.