

News Release



Docklands

Docklands Light Railway — The Beckton Extension

18 December 1989

MOWLEM-TAYLOR WOODROW JOINT VENTURE WINS CONTRACT FOR BECKTON EXTENSION

The contract for the major part of the extension of the Docklands Light Railway (DLR), from Poplar to Beckton, has been awarded to Mowlem-Taylor Woodrow Joint Venture.

The contract, worth £116 million, is for the construction of 8km (5 miles) of double track railway between Poplar and Beckton, including 11 stations, plus storage sidings and workshops to be built on the site of the former Beckton Gasworks.

Construction will take 32 months to complete from award of contract, and work on site is due to start in January 1990. This will be followed by a four month period for staff training and trial running, allowing the railway to open for passenger service at the end of 1992.

The Beckton extension of the DLR has a total project cost of the order of £240 million, with the majority of funds being provided by the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) and the balance from London Regional Transport.

The operation of DLR through the Royal Docks is seen as a vital catalyst for the LDDC's redevelopment of the area.

The Mowlem-Taylor Woodrow Joint Venture was one of five tenderers invited to make submissions for this contract. Both companies have considerable experience of this type of work.

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Kenneth Fergusson, Managing Director of DLR, said: "The signing of this contract is the last major step in getting the Beckton extension under way. This extension will bring reliable modern public transport to the Royal Docks and Beckton and will be of great benefit to those who live and work in the area."

Michael Honey, LDDC Chief Executive, commented: "The original Docklands Light Railway was of immense benefit in bringing new jobs to the Isle of Dogs, and in giving local people access to work, leisure and shopping facilities in the rest of London. The DLR Beckton extension will attract new developments in the Royal Docks and Leamouth to provide many thousands of new jobs and homes. And the people of Poplar, Canning Town, Silvertown, Cyprus and Beckton will at last have first class links to the centre of London, as well as to the exciting new prospects taking shape in London Docklands."

For further information contact:

LDDC Press Office
London Docklands Visitor Centre
3 Limeharbour
London E14 9TJ
Tel: 01-515 3000

DLR Press Office
PO Box 154
Poplar
London E14 9QA
Tel: 01-538 0311

NOTE TO EDITORS

1. The initial 12km railway, linking Tower Gateway and Stratford with the Isle of Dogs, was opened in August 1987. Contracts are in progress to extend the railway 1.5km west, by tunnel to Bank Station, and to upgrade the existing railway for the operation of double length trains.

2. In addition to Contract 2, awarded today, the Beckton extension is divided into three further contracts:

Contract 1: Construction of the railway between West India Dock Road and Prestons Road by Balfour Beatty Construction Ltd.

Contract 3: Forty-four vehicles for the Bank and Beckton extensions are on order from BN Constructions Ferroviaires et Metalliques SA of Belgium, with major sub-systems from Hawker-Siddeley Rail Projects, Chippenham. Deliveries are planned to start at the end of 1990.

Contract 4: Construction and supply of automated fare collection equipment by Westinghouse Cubic Limited.

3. DLR currently operates 11 vehicles. Ten more vehicles of a similar design are currently being delivered from the manufacturers, BREL of York.