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RIDING INTO THE FUTURE

Christopher Benson, Chairman of the London Docklands Development Corporation, today welcomed the announcement, by London Regional Transport, that the contract to build and equip the Docklands Light Railway has been won by GEC with John Mowlem and Company plc. He said: "This new public transport link is essential to serve the expanding business and residential communities of Docklands. It will transform travel throughout the East End. I look forward to making my first ride on the new trains sometime in 1987".

Proposals for the light railway came from the LDDC and Greater London Council after a government decision to abandon, on grounds of cost, a proposed extension of the Jubilee underground line through Docklands. The LDDC and London Regional Transport will divide equally the cost of the new system.

More than 70,000 Docklands residents and workers will be served by the light railway. As it links the Tower of London with Greenwich Palace, via the foot tunnel under the Thames, its tourist potential could add up to another million passengers a year.

An estimated 9,500 new jobs will be created in and around the Enterprise Zone as a result of the new line.

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