

News Release

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LDDC RESTRUCTURES THE LIMEHOUSE LINK MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

The London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) is to adopt a new approach to construction supervision for its £240 million Limehouse Link project. Integrated construction management is a technique commonly used elsewhere in the world for large public sector construction projects and in the petro-chemical and oil industries, particularly in offshore projects.

Engineers from Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners will integrate into the LDDC staff for the remainder of the project and will join forces with construction management specialists provided by the LDDC.

Under Integrated Construction Management the client takes on responsibility of superintending officer, the role held by consulting engineers on more traditionally managed projects.

Explaining the changes, Tom Hoke, the LDDC's Director of Infrastructure Programme, said: "Traditionally owners have appointed consulting engineers to supervise contractors in a rigid hierarchical structure which is unsuited to complex innovative projects requiring fast interchanges of information and recommendations. By integrating the construction management functions within a single team we will be able to improve the speed and effectiveness of the decision-making process with obvious benefits to all aspects of the project."

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Geoffrey Coates, Chairman of Alexander Gibb, currently President of FIDIC said: "This integrated approach provides the optimum solution for a complicated project located in a dense urban environment. We commend our client for adopting this approach which brings consulting engineer and client together to work as a team and is much more conducive to good quality engineering than the confrontational approach which has occasionally bedeviled other large projects. Many of our engineers already have experience of integrated construction management gained on major projects overseas. Under the new arrangements, they will continue to contribute their technical expertise and detailed knowledge, gained from a four year involvement in the project, from within the enlarged LDDC team."

A spokesman for BBF said: "Contracts of this complexity do require a different approach. The Balfour Beatty/Fairclough Joint Venture enthusiastically support any change that can help ensure the success of the project."

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For further information, contact:

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

The Limehouse Link is a 1.8km, £240 million dual-carriageway linking Canary Wharf in the Isle of Dogs to the City of London. Due for completion in 1993, 90% of the road passes through tunnels.

The London Docklands Development Corporation appointed Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners Ltd to design the Link in 1987.

In 1989, Balfour Beatty/Fairclough in joint venture were contracted to construct the route.

The project is currently on programme for opening in Spring 1993.