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GOVERNMENT TO FUND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

Royals University College One Step Nearer

A £7.8 million grant from the Government's Single Regeneration Challenge Fund for the Thames Gateway Technology Centre, announced today by Environment Secretary John Gummer, will pave the way for the first phase of the Royals University College in the Royal Docks in London Docklands.

- * The Thames Gateway Technology Centre will be a one-stop facility for a full range of services for new and existing manufacturing companies in the east of London. It will contain training and demonstration facilities, business start-up space and advice, a technology resource centre, an industrial design centre and will also undertake research and development.**
- * The Technology Centre is the key component of the Royals University College which is planned to cater for up to 5,000 students and is being promoted by a partnership of public and private sector organisations in East London.**

The Thames Gateway Technology Centre

Government funding for the Technology Centre will be matched by up to £8 million from the University of East London and the private sector, including Peabody Trust. The four acre site for the Centre is planned to be made available by the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) at the eastern end of the Royal Docks.

Brokering collaboration between universities and industry, the Centre is expected to

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create up to 660 jobs, enable 90 business start-ups, provide 3,000 sq m of new technology business space, advise 860 businesses and train 2,000 people.

The Centre brings together strategic policies for manufacturing and urban regeneration to benefit the economy, communities and businesses of East London and the Thames Gateway area. The Centre is a regeneration initiative designed directly to target the competitiveness of the local economy.

The Royals University College

The Technology Centre is planned to be built at the same time as the first phase of the Royals University College with the first students due on campus in 1998/1999. Funding for the first £18 million phase of the University College is proposed to come from the University of East London, Peabody Trust and LDDC. The LDDC is also proposing to provide a further 21 acres at the eastern end of the Royal Docks.

Partnership Welcomes Government Support

Welcoming the Government grant, Professor Frank Gould, Vice Chancellor of the University of East London, leader of the University group, said: "The backing of four universities will make the Centre a tremendous resource of expertise available in one place for local companies. The Technology Centre will provide a complete range of technology development and training services to industry. This is a new departure in urban regeneration - universities are making an innovative contribution to this area's future."

Michael Pickard, LDDC's Chairman, added: "The Technology Centre will give a tremendous boost to the Royal Docks and the people, businesses and economy of East London. It will accelerate the already quickening pace of regeneration in London Docklands, particularly in the Royal Docks where the development of the West Silvertown Urban Village is already underway and plans for a new international exhibition centre are progressing well. Importantly the University development will attract and support companies in the adjacent Royals Business Park."

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Susan Fey, Chief Executive of LETEC which submitted the bid on behalf of the Partnership and which will lead the SRB element of the scheme, said: "This success shows how partnerships are driving the changes to regenerate East London. The centre will bring a new dimension to training, will attract inward investment, create jobs and provide an engine room for the development of manufacturing industries in the area."

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NOTE TO EDITORS

The bid to the Single Regeneration Challenge Fund was submitted by a partnership of public and private sector organisations in East London promoting the Royals University College: University of East London, Queen Mary and Westfield College (University of London), London Guildhall University and City University, the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC), London Borough of Newham, LETEC (London East Training & Enterprise Council) and the Peabody Trust.