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Cable cars loaded with weights to test wires

Posted 15/05/12

Load testing of the 34 cable cars which make up the Emirates Air Line has begun.

The inaugural load testing 'flight' began on Tuesday (15 May) as part of a series of safety trials following completion last month of the three towers which support the cable car wires.

During testing the 34 cabins will travel across 1.1km of cable, 90 metres above the River Thames, with weights inside representing the maximum number of passengers who will travel in each car. Design, build and operating contractor Mace is working with cable car specialist Doppelmayr to carry out the testing.

Transport for London says when the cable car system opens in the summer it will have capacity to carry up to 2,500 people per hour in each direction over the river between the Greenwich Peninsula and Royal Victoria Docks - the equivalent of 30 buses an hour.

Mayor of London Boris Johnson secured a £36m sponsorship deal to part fund construction and operation of the Air Line, which will create a link between the O2 and ExCeL venues and a new way to interchange between the Jubilee line and Docklands Light Railway.

Boris Johnson said: "The speed with which we have gone from designs to safety testing of the Emirates Air Line is a clear demonstration of London's ability to deliver world class projects and attract major investment. This new transport link is set to support my plans to transform east London into a vibrant new metropolitan quarter boasting new jobs, homes and enterprise."

Matt Randall, project director for Mace, added: "The testing and commissioning of all 34 cabins over the Thames will see the system really put through its paces over the coming days. The cabins have travelled smoothly on their early journeys and we are making excellent progress on the wider construction with both terminals and landscaping nearing completion."

Emirates Air Line: cable car system will link O2/Millennium Dome with ExCeL centre



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