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Serco wins £100m Docklands light rail extension

Posted 07/01/13

Transport services and outsourcing specialist Serco has been granted an 18 month extension to its contract to run the Docklands Light Railway.

Transport for London announced that Serco Docklands Ltd had secured the extension, worth around £100m, following what it described as a hugely successful Olympic and Paralympic Games. The light rail system played a major role in transporting spectators to and from Stratford during the sporting tournament. TfL said sustained levels of train punctuality had been achieved since the Games.

Under the contract extension, Serco will continue to be responsible for the operation of DLR train services, maintenance of DLR rolling stock and maintenance of the rail network - except for the Lewisham, Woolwich and Stratford International extensions which have separate maintenance arrangements in place. Terms remain the same as under the original contract award in 2006 and will run from April 2013 to September 2014.

DLR director Jonathan Fox said: "I am pleased to announce the extension of this contract and the continuation of a successful working partnership that has seen the DLR expand its network, increase its capacity by 50% and successfully meet the challenge of the Olympics, when the network carried more than 100% more customers than normal."

David Stretch, managing director of Serco Docklands, added: "We are extremely proud to have been awarded an extension to the Docklands contract. Serco has proved itself a trusted partner to Transport for London over 15 years, consistently improving service reliability on the DLR and achieving its best ever reliability in 2012. We look forward to another 18 months in which to deliver award-winning DLR services for London's travelling public."

Serco works closely with TfL across the capital and has operated the DLR since 1997 in two consecutive franchises. It also runs the Barclays Cycle Hire scheme for TfL but last year lost the contract to run the Woolwich ferry with TfL choosing Briggs Marine to take over ferry operations in April 2013 (TB 8964).



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