

# TRANSPORT

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## Four in competition to run Docklands Light Railway

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Docklands Light Railway operator Serco is competing against three other bidders for the contract to run DLR services beyond September 2014.

On Wednesday (17 April) Transport for London announced the shortlist of bidders for the new concession. Serco is up against Stagecoach, a 30/70 joint venture of Amey and SNCF-owned Keolis, and a joint venture of Go-Ahead and Colas Rail. The new deal is due to run for seven years until 2021 but will provide TfL with an option to extend.

An invitation to tender will be issued within the next few weeks with a contract award scheduled for mid 2014 to allow the new arrangement to begin on 14 September 2014. TfL wants the new concessionaire to ensure that service reliability continues to improve, deliver an efficient programme of long-term maintenance and help ensure capacity on the railway continues to grow to support development in the Docklands area and along DLR routes.

DLR acting director Rory O'Neill said: "We are pleased to further consider the bids from these companies which have passed the first stage of the rigorous process in issuing a new franchise. The DLR is already a highly successful railway but we are not complacent and wish to ensure that the service offered to Londoners continues to improve."

Serco has operated the Docklands Light Railway since 1997 through two consecutive concession contracts plus an 18 month extension granted earlier this year (TB 9000). The DLR opened in 1987 and now has 45 stations, 38km of track and 149 carriages.



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