



23/04/2010

First Tram arrives in Edinburgh

For immediate release

The inaugural tram vehicle will arrive in Edinburgh on Sunday night and be put on public display at the heart of the route on Princes Street.

Fresh from successful track testing in Germany, the 43 metre long vehicle built for Edinburgh's new system is the first of the 27-strong fleet to arrive in the City. It will have made its way across Europe from Germany, via Amsterdam and up the A1 into Scotland before arriving at the Princes Street tram stop.

The vehicle will arrive in three sections on 30metre long trucks and be manoeuvred into place overnight this Sunday when final arrangements for opening it to visitors will be made on Monday.

Following on from the success of the Tram Mock-up, which logged a record 140,000 visitors, the finished tram will give the public an insight into the unique vehicle that Edinburgh Trams will offer when operational in 2012.

City of Edinburgh Council Leader, Jenny Dawe will officially receive the keys to the first tram on behalf of the City on Tuesday 27 April at 1pm, in a ceremony with representatives from Edinburgh Trams and CAF, the vehicle manufacturers.

"I have been looking forward to seeing the first tram in the City. The arrival of the vehicle will give a fantastic opportunity for the public to view the quality of the finished tram vehicle, as well as see for themselves the sheer number of people which each tram will be able to carry. This will stand as a real and tangible milestone for both the project and citizens of Edinburgh."

The tram will be open to the public for viewing from Wednesday 28 April between 11am and 6pm. Staff from the Edinburgh Trams operations team will be on hand to answer questions and give information on the vehicle's bespoke design. In situ at the tram stop, many of the vehicles features including the 100% low floor entrances and unique seven section design will be clearly visible to see.

A milestone for the project, Edinburgh Trams and CAF have worked closely over the last two years in order to ensure the innovative tram vehicle design has progressed to schedule.

Alastair Richards, Edinburgh Trams, said:

"This is a significant day for Edinburgh which reflects the hard work and effort behind the scenes which has been put into delivering this project. Personally, I am looking forward to hearing feedback on the changes made to the tram vehicle through public consultations. I am now turning my team's focus towards bringing the rest of the tram fleet to Edinburgh in preparation for service in 2012."

Notes to editors

1. Given the logistics of transporting such a large load across the continent we cannot guarantee exactly when the vehicle will arrive. However we are hopeful that unloading will take place between 10pm and 4am on Sunday, 25 April. You are welcome to send a crew to film the unloading but please contact Jen Johnston on 07837281868 on Sunday to confirm timings.
2. A press call notice will be issued on Monday for the handing over of the keys ceremony on Tuesday at 1pm, and a vantage point has been secured on Princes Street to take shots of the whole vehicle. The tram stop is located between Hanover and Frederick Streets.

Tram Vehicle Facts



- **27 Tram Vehicles**
- **42.8 metres in length**
- **Comprised of 7 modules**
- **250 people capacity – 78 Seats, 2 wheelchair spaces, 170 standing and ample luggage space**
- **100% low floor access providing easy access for all passengers**
- **30 mph on-street and up to 45 mph on off-street sections**
- **Regenerative braking allows energy to be recovered and channelled back into the power lines**
- **Safety features will include CCTV onboard and at tram stops**
- **Tram wheels will use lubrication on tight corners to minimise ‘wheel squeal’**
- **The tram fleet will travel 5,500km per day once operational**
- **Estimated 40,000 passenger journeys per day**