



## news release

### **FINAL TRAM CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED AS SCHEME MOVES TO NEXT PHASE**

**tie** Limited has today (Thursday) announced the construction programme that will see trams running on the streets of Edinburgh by 2011.

This milestone signals the beginning of the delivery phase of the tram construction work, enabling **tie** to describe the programme for the main part of the construction and reaffirm its commitment for Line 1b.

The programme will see infrastructure being laid across Edinburgh from June 2008 until January 2011. It is anticipated that a full revenue service will be in place by July 2011.

The final contract price is agreed at £508m. This is an increase of 2% on the price forecast in the 2007 Final Business Case and is well within the funding parameters set for the Edinburgh Tram project.

This announcement comes at the end of rigorous negotiations with the preferred bidders for the tram infrastructure and manufacture contracts. The contracts will be signed next month following City of Edinburgh Council approval. Councillors will be briefed in a report issued today.

Willie Gallagher, Executive Chairman of **tie**, said: "I'm delighted to be able to announce the construction programme for Edinburgh Trams. We are at the cusp of delivering what we have promised – a world class public transport system in our Capital.

"We have struck the correct balance between price, programme, quality of the finished product and certainty of cost in agreeing this programme.

"The utility diversion work continues to progress to programme and to budget. The start of the infrastructure work will see the nature of the construction change – with rails being installed and the trams stops built.

"I'm certain that the people of Edinburgh look forward to seeing the physical attributes of the tram develop before them."

"The scale of these construction contracts underlines Edinburgh Tram's position as one of the most important infrastructure and transport projects in the UK and establishes our ability to appoint successful, international organisations to undertake the project.

"**tie**, together with these companies, will deliver for Edinburgh the 21<sup>st</sup> century tram system that our city deserves."

The contract also sees an extension of the hours of working for contractors to 7am to 7pm (Monday to Saturday) in response to the wishes of Edinburgh's business community and to further minimise the impact of the project.

Neil Renilson, Chief Executive of TEL (Transport Edinburgh Limited) the company that will run the integrated bus and tram network, said: "We are entering a very exciting time in the tram construction and we are confident that we can deliver a fully integrated transport network for Edinburgh. During the ongoing construction period we will continue to plan diversions carefully in close collaboration with our colleagues in **tie** and the City of Edinburgh Council in order to ensure minimum disruption to bus journeys."

Cllr Phil Wheeler, Transport Convener at the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "As this next phase progresses, with rails being laid and tram stops being built, we will be able to see exactly where trams will run on our streets. It's an exciting time and brings us yet another step closer to a fully-integrated public transport network befitting a capital city.

"I commend Willie and his team at **tie** for the work that's gone in to planning this stage, which will ensure the city remains open for business while tram work takes place."

**Ends**

**24 April 2008**

**For further information please contact Gordon Robertson of Media House on 0131 555 1015/07887542124.**

## **Notes to Editors**

- **Programme**

### **Key milestones:**

- Infrastructure starts: June 2008
- Start of trackform laying in City Centre: August 2008
- End of construction: January 2011
- Tram full service running: July 2011

- **Programme Dates**

### **Contract:**

The Infrastructure contract will also have novated to it the design contract, delivered through SDS, and the tram manufacturer contract (TramCo), delivered by CAF.

The initial phase 1a comprises:

- 18km track
- 9 substations
- 22 tram stops
- Single depot at Gogar

Phase 1b comprises:

- 6km track
- 3 substations
- 9 tram stops