

## **TRANSDEV CELEBRATES FURTHER UK GROWTH**

Transdev, the world's leading tram company, was today named by transport initiatives edinburgh (**tie**), as the preferred bidder for the new Edinburgh light rail system.

tie, a subsidiary of City of Edinburgh Council announced that it will recommend that Transdev be selected as the candidate to operate and maintain the city's tram network

Subject to confirmation by City Council and subsequent agreement on the contract, Transdev will become the first company to operate two tram systems in Britain, having recently started operating and maintaining the Nottingham tram system. Transdev already operates seven tram systems overseas, more than any other company.

The new Edinburgh tram will be operated and maintained in partnership with tie, with the chosen operator also acting as a consultant during the development and building of the tram.

Edinburgh City Council has made a new tram network its number one priority and has received £375 million in funding from the transport minister, Iain Gray MSP. The first tram is expected to run in 2009 and carry over 11 million passengers a year, with a further two lines to follow. This will be the first time trams will have been seen on the streets of Edinburgh for more than 50 years.

Commenting on the announcement, Francois-Xavier Perin, chief executive of Transdev UK, said: "This is another important event in Transdev's development in the UK. We are a global transport company with a reputation as a world-class operator and are delighted to be named as preferred bidder. We look forward to working with tie to finalise a contract which will allow us to bring our international experience and expertise in tram operation to the people of Edinburgh."

Throughout its worldwide operations, Transdev has a reputation for developing partnerships with local authorities, and has undertaken the role of development partner with local authorities for 24 individual tram lines. Its announcement as

proposed preferred bidder in Edinburgh comes just two months after the company celebrated the launch of the new Nottingham tram network, the Nottingham Express Transit (NET), which is operated and maintained by Transdev in partnership with Nottingham City Transport (NCT).

As well as the Nottingham tram, Transdev operates in Porto, Portugal and has five light rail schemes in France – Nantes, Grenoble, Strasbourg, Montpellier and Orleans. The company has also recently been awarded the contract to run the whole of Melbourne's tram system (the world's third largest tram network), bringing to eight the number of worldwide tram networks operated and maintained by the company with a fleet total of over 750 trams.

Transdev's expertise extends beyond tram operation to buses, trolleybuses, coaches, heavy rail and ferries. The company is the third largest private sector public transport operator in France and also operates bus networks in Italy, Portugal and Australia.

In the UK, Transdev is one of the major bus operators in London, owning both London United and Sovereign London, carrying over 100 million passengers a year in the capital, and is a shareholder in the award-winning Nottingham City Transport whose bus services complement the new tram in Nottingham.

In heavy rail, Transdev works in partnership with the Paris Metro Operator RATP in the EuRailCo joint venture, and has recently been awarded a contract to operate a suburban rail network in Germany.

Transdev operates 100 networks worldwide across various transport modes and is responsible for carrying more than three million passengers every day.

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Information about Transdev's worldwide operations is available on our website [www.transdev.fr](http://www.transdev.fr) and details of the tram scheme are on [www.tramtime.com](http://www.tramtime.com)

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