

Tilbury and S Walsh showcase waterborne transport at major London summit

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PRESS RELEASE

New construction alliance Port of Tilbury and S Walsh showcases the role of construction consolidation and waterborne transport at London Infrastructure Summit

Port of Tilbury and S Walsh's new construction alliance - London Construction Link (LCL) - will showcase the part that construction consolidation and waterborne transport on the Thames can play in the Capital's current and future infrastructure projects at the London Infrastructure Summit today (25 March).

The high profile event in London with over 400 transport professionals, will focus on London's infrastructure needs to support the City's continued economic growth and will see the launch of a Manifesto for London.

With major projects in the Capital - including Crossrail 2, further transport infrastructure and Greater London Authority's Housing Zones - there will be more opportunities for development and LCL will be promoting their construction solutions for storage, distribution and handling of building materials using barges on the Thames which reduces the need for truck miles around the Capital.

London Construction Link is an alliance between the Port of Tilbury and S Walsh offering construction solutions for sites near or beside the Thames. Based at the seaport, LCL is a versatile consolidation and distribution facility combining river access with excellent road, rail and IT-driven storage management infrastructure to create a facility that can store and move all kinds of construction-related materials through a number of different modes to minimise empty lorry running and construction site storage, with associated CO2 and cyclist safety benefits. LCL is CLOCS (Construction Logistics and Cyclist Safety) Champion and is FORS (Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme) registered.

“The London Construction Link could be transformative for the Capital’s roads, from relieving congestion in Battersea in support of the Nine Elms development and saving cyclist lives in Deptford and Greenwich as major riparian residential projects take shape to reduce London’s carbon footprint.” commented **Peter Ward from the Port of Tilbury** and representing LCL at the London Infrastructure Summit.

A very significant proportion of cyclist fatalities involving goods vehicles happen in London – almost half of the 44 cyclists death there between 2011-13 (inclusive) were as a result of a collision with a lorry, and construction vehicles seem to pose a particular problem.

A report by KLH Sustainability looking at the use of construction consolidation and river transport for the Vauxhall Nine Elms regeneration project in London, 2015 to 2017, found that consolidating building material at the Port of Tilbury for the would result in a 48% reduction of heavy goods vehicle movements; 34% reduction of annual HGV kilometres travelled; and 2 fewer cyclist deaths or injuries.

Westley Pickup from S Walsh & Sons said: *“London is booming and today’s event rightly focused attention on the infrastructure needs of the Capital in the next 30 years, with London Construction Link at the heart of sustainable policy thinking. From Thames Tideway Tunnel to Crossrail 2, the London Construction Link looks forward to providing solutions to substantially reduce lorry movements by both utilising the River Thames and controlling construction flows in-and-out of London through our new consolidation centre.”*

25 March 2015

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Further information/images:

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Notes to editors:

About London Construction Link

The London Construction Link is a collaboration between the Port of Tilbury and S. Walsh, one of the leading construction solutions companies in London. The partnership is seeking to relieve congestion on the capital's roads, with associated cycling safety and CO2 benefits, through promoting greater use of construction consolidation and the use of the river for construction projects on or near the Thames. LCL builds upon the Tilbury's pedigree as the logistics and distribution hub for the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics and S. Walsh's success as the largest marine operator on the Thames. LCL is supported by British Cycling and CTC.

LCL has secured two major projects to date at the Battersea Power Station development site.

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