

Press Release Information

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PRESS RELEASE

RAILWAY PROCUREMENT AGENCY – 2006 ANNUAL REPORT Big increase in Operating Surplus

The Railway Procurement Agency today (July 13, 2007) published its Annual Report for 2006, the second full year of operation of the Luas Red and Green Lines. RPA recorded a surplus from Luas operations of €5.646m which compares favourably with a surplus of €0.2m in 2005. This surplus will be reinvested in the Red and Green lines to ensure that high quality passenger service will be maintained in the future. Luas has consolidated its position within the small group of urban public transport systems in Europe that do not require operating subventions.

This significant increase in the operating surplus is a direct result of the continued growth in passenger numbers, which has continued further in 2007. Luas carried 26 million passengers in 2006 compared with 22 million in 2005.

RPA's 2006 Financial Statements report on the Agency's mobilisation to deliver projects that are included in its mandate under Transport 21. This included negotiating contracts for supply of a fleet of new trams and extending the length of all trams on the Red Line.

In responding to the mandate to extend Luas service to other areas of the city, RPA was granted powers in 2006 to extend the Green Line from Sandyford to Cherrywood and the Red Line from Connolly to The Point. Construction began on these projects in the first half of 2007. Good progress was also made in agreeing routes for Metro North from Dublin city centre to Swords via Dublin Airport and for Metro West through west Dublin.

Introducing the report, RPA Chief Executive, Mr. Frank Allen said that the success of Luas in attracting large numbers of passengers, particularly outside the peak commuting hours, has become a role-model for planners developing transport in other European cities. "The emerging rail network, incorporating new Luas and Metro Lines is already making a significant contribution to the sustainable development of the Greater Dublin Area. The public's enthusiastic response to Luas continues to drive the successful implementation of Transport 21".

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The 2006 Annual Report is available at www.rpa.ie/rpa/about_us/annual_reports

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