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## Landmark new Bridge for Docklands Luas

Following a competitive tendering process the Board of Directors of RPA have approved the award of the new Spencer Dock Bridge construction contract to Laing O'Rourke and construction is due to commence early in the New Year.

The Spencer Dock Bridge is the principal structure along the LUAS Red Line Docklands C1 extension to the Point Depot and has provided the Railway Procurement Agency (RPA) and the Dublin Docklands Development Authority with an opportunity to create a landmark structure along the extended route. The Spencer Dock Bridge will carry LUAS across the Royal Canal and along Mayor Street. The bridge has been designed in such a way as to enable Spencer Dock to be restored to its original width and to allow the Dublin Docklands Development Authority to construct an attractive, imaginative urban park on either side of the canal bank.

The location of the bridge is immediately beside the National Conference Centre and close to the Samuel Beckett Bridge. The design has sought to create a visually exciting structure and one which is unique in its own right, and yet does not try to compete with the scale or form of the Samuel Beckett Bridge. The attraction of the Spencer Dock Bridge is related to its geometry, shape and context within this urban environment. It is expected that this exciting new bridge will itself become a landmark in the vibrant Docklands 21st century design.

The design concept has been devised between Arup Consulting Engineers and Future Systems Architects. The conceptual design is based on the geometry of the **Manta Ray** fish with asymmetric pectoral fins (wings) extending out from the body of the bridge deck and reaching down towards the water level in the Royal Canal, (see attachment) The deck soffit geometry is continuously curved in 3D, as is the profile of the concrete bridge parapets and the bridge abutments.

Luas Line C1 is the proposed extension of the Luas Red Line (Connolly - Tallaght) to The Point. The line will serve the IFSC and The Point Depot.

Stops will be provided at George's Dock, Mayor Square, Spencer Dock and The Point. The proposed line will link with the Luas Red Line between the Busáras and Connolly Stops. The line will terminate at the proposed The Point Stop. Journey time from Connolly to The Point will be approximately 7 minutes.

This Luas extension is an important part of the Dublin Dockland's Development Authority's Master Plan.

Luas Line C1 is part of the Government's Transport 21 investment programme.

RPA submitted a Railway Order Application in December 2005 a Public Inquiry was conducted in May 2006. The Minister for Transport signed the Railway Order in December 2006.