

COMPUTER CAB PLC SECURE THE TAXICARD CONTRACT FOR A NEW TERM

The Taxicard contract, the largest taxi account in the UK, has been awarded to Computer Cab plc who again submitted a joint bid with Dial-a-Cab and therefore can provide the largest fleet of licensed taxis possible. London Councils has signalled its continuing commitment to help disabled Londoners live as independent a life as possible – by announcing this new improved Taxicard contract with Computer Cab plc which will run for a 3 year term.

The Taxicard service provides subsidised trips in licensed taxis and private hire vehicles to eligible London residents with serious physical or sensory impairments, and who find it difficult to use public transport. The service, which is funded by London's boroughs with support from Transport for London is used by over 80,000 members to make more than 1.2 million trips a year.

The London Taxicard scheme is continuing to grow at an extraordinary rate - with a significant rise in the number for trips when compared to last year. Computer Cab plc has been ensuring that the number of taxis available to the scheme is also increasing to help cope with the rising demand. As with the last contract term Computer Cab plc has partnered with Dial-a-Cab to maximise the number of available taxis. Malcolm Paice, Head of Operations at Computer Cab plc commented: "Taxicard is an important lifeline for people



whose have limited options for getting around London. Computer Cab plc is privileged to be able to serve this account and I would thank all our drivers who work so hard to deliver a high level of service to the largest taxi account around."

Computer Cab's Chief Executive John Lee added: "Computer Cab plc is very proud to have been awarded the Taxicard contract for another 3 years. We have worked incredibly hard to prove our commitment to this important scheme managed by London Councils. We know how important this service is for Taxicard holders and we are looking forward to delivering an improved service in the next 3 years with the largest fleet in London and with the introduction of our new booking and despatch system." Chairman of London Councils Transport and Environment Committee, Councillor Daniel Moylan, said: "We are delighted to be renewing our contract with Computer

Cab, and we look forward to continuing to work with them to provide this invaluable service for disabled Londoners. The borough-led Taxicard scheme is going from strength to strength."

Disabled Londoners can expect to see significant improvements to the service as a result of the new contract. Computer Cab plc has invested £4.5 million in a new booking and despatch system called Advantage, which will help improve the booking service, vehicle distribution and fleet management.

LIFE AFTER LTI VEHICLES

Many taxi drivers will remember when Jamie Borwick was the man at the top of LTI Vehicles and Manganese Bronze. His involvement with the company ended almost two years ago, when he sold all his shares in Manganese Bronze. As part of the package, he took over the project called e-mercury, building electric vehicles which had been at LTI. This project is now on the road in the form of the Modec van, an electric emission free vehicle. Both Tesco and Marks and Spencer are set to use the vans for their delivery services following the launch in London. The factory where the vehicles are produced is located in Coventry, not far from the Holyhead Road home of LTI.

In another venture now underway, Jamie is the Chairman of route2mobility (r2m). This company operates the Motability Powered Wheelchair and Scooter Scheme. Jamie has substantially increased his investment into the company. Jamie commented: "Motability is a recognised and trusted name across the country, and this additional funding will help r2m take the Motability Powered Wheelchair and Scooter Scheme into the next stage of development."

At the same time as making the new investment, another person known to many in the taxi trade, Michael McRedmond, has taken over as the r2m Chief Executive Officer. Mike used to be the Managing Director of London Taxi Finance Ltd. He gained a lot of experience in his role at LTF which will prove invaluable in his new role. He said: "I am very excited about the opportunity to develop the Scheme to its fullest potential. The provision of powered wheelchairs and scooters to our customers is often the difference between being housebound and having the independence that most of us take for granted. I relish the challenge to extend the Scheme and thereby peoples' independence." Although his new role has taken him to new offices in Andover, Mike maintains his links with the taxi trade as he is still a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Hackney



Jamie Borwick (left) with cab trade historian Phil Warren

Drivers. He is also hoping to make the annual Magical Taxi Tour again this year, a trip he made throughout his time as MD at LTF. Another member of the staff Modec is Roger Atkins, who was working at LTI Vehicles as part of the Sales and Marketing team. He is now Dealer Development Director for Modec.

Welcoming the developments, Don Brereton CB, Director of Motability, said: "This is positive news for the Motability Scheme and I extend a very warm welcome to Michael McRedmond and I look forward to working with him. His particular skills and experience will be beneficial to the continued development of the Scheme for our customers."



Michael McRedmond