

TAXI
GLOBE



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organisation currently in existence at Heathrow to represent the interests of London Taxi Drivers is not "accountable" in a truly democratic and transparent manner.

HATDU was so named because many drivers felt that they HAD TO DO something when, amongst many other things, the Airport Authorities appeared to be unable or uninterested in ensuring that all Licensed Taxis using the Terminal 5 Rank had passed through the Feeder Park system as required. A Steering Committee has been formed and shall register HATDU with the Financial Services Authority and manage its affairs until the first [1st] General Meeting.

Recruitment to the Society has been quite rapid and in the first few weeks more than four hundred [400] have registered for Membership. The Membership joining fee is currently £5.00p and this will represent the share value when the Society is registered. The new Society is in the process of setting up a Credit Card system for the benefit of its Membership; a facility that is becoming increasingly widely used in the Licensed London Taxi industry today, and in recognition of passengers' common spending practices.

It has been determined that:

1. The Organisation shall be known as Heathrow Airport Taxi Drivers United

NEGOTIATIONS AT KPM

Eco-City vehicles plc was listed on the AIM in September 2007 and was the result of a reverse take over with KPM. Commenting on the recently announced results for the Company, Peter Da Costa, Group Chief Executive, said: "This has been a very exciting and eventful year for everyone at the Company. The Group successfully listed on AIM giving us the necessary platform to expand the business into environmentally sustainable transportation.

"Last year's results show good growth in all areas of our business - with especially strong performances from our taxi sales division and related finance sales. Having formed Transmedia Ltd in October, to operate Cabvision's technology under licence, the Board took the decision to write-off Cabvision's previous debts of £2.4 million as an exceptional item.

"Cabvision is now recognised as being a reliable accountable digital sales platform and the last quarter of 2007 saw a significant jump in the number of pitches to the major buying Agencies with further bookings for regular advertisers, which has continued since the period end.

INCREASING SALES OF TAXIS

2007 saw an increase in new vehicles sales from 610 in 2006 to 782. Total new vehicle sales in the 15 month reporting period were 920. It was also a record year for finance sales with sales for the 15 months to December 2007 70% above the prior period for retained finance business.

The Company saw some rapid growth in the engine department, where their highly successfully TX2 timing conversion continues to dominate, helped by the TX2 coming out of the manufacturers warranty period. The Company has also gained approval from the United Kingdom Accreditation Service for its Meter Division and will now be able to calibrate and test taxi-meters. This created a new revenue stream from a service previously only available from the British Standards Institute.

EXCITING TIMES AHEAD

A national newspaper has recently reported that Mercedes Benz is "close to agreeing a distribution deal with Eco-City". This could see a new taxi which could meet the Conditions of Fitness for London, but the Company are stressing that they cannot comment on this at the present time. On 13 May 2008 the Company announced that it is in negotiations that may or may not lead to a significant commercial contract and that a further announcement will be made to the market at the appropriate time. The Company confirms that negotiations continue. It is also in advanced negotiations with a manufacturer of electric vehicles and convertors. The Company is undertaking a rigorous review of the available technologies and supply chains to ensure that it is able to meet what the Board expects to be strong demand for low emission transport. On 2nd June, following the report in the press, which claimed "prototypes of the new Mercedes cab are being tested by the PCO, but none has yet been driven on London's streets" Eco City Vehicles Plc said: "We note the comments in the weekend press and would like to reiterate its announcement of 13 May 2008, and confirms that it is in advanced negotiations that may or may not lead to a substantial commercial contract. The Company anticipates that a further announcement will be made to the market in the near future."

A TfL spokesperson for the Public Carriage Office said: "The PCO would like to see a wider choice of taxis in London and, in recent years has had and is still having discussions with companies which are potential suppliers of vehicles which comply with our Conditions of Fitness. "For reasons of commercial confidentiality, we could not confirm whether or not a vehicle from any given manufacturer was going through the approvals process. Whenever any new vehicle type is approved for use as a taxi in London, we would take steps to ensure drivers and owners were made aware of the choice of vehicles available to them."

HEATHROW AIRPORT TAXI DRIVERS UNITED [HATDU] by Eddie Symes

A new driver organisation is being formed at Heathrow. The organisation was initially formed in April 2008 by a group of Licensed London Taxi Drivers, who work mainly at Heathrow, and with a common sense of purpose, as it is widely felt that the

- [HATDU].
- The Society shall be registered with the Financial Services Authority [FSA] as an Industrial & Provident Society under the Industrial & Provident Societies Act 1965 working on the principle of one man – one vote.
- A Share Certificate, Rules Book and Membership Card shall be issued to all Members.
- Membership shall be open to all Licensed London Taxi Drivers who are registered to use the Taxi Feeder Park at Heathrow Airport.
- The Society shall open a Bank Account.
- A Credit Card processing system shall be created for the benefit of the Membership and encompassed within the Rules. All surpluses derived from this system shall be re-invested into the Society for the benefit of the Members.
- A Set of Rules shall be drawn up and submitted to the Financial Services Authority which shall reflect the views of those drivers who work at Heathrow and will be expected to include a provision for a Legal Protection Scheme.
- As a legally 'Incorporated Body' HATDU shall approach BAA/HAL/Ferrovial to ensure that its Members are fully represented at the highest level in all discussions on matters affecting their working practices at Heathrow Airport. Should you require any further information please contact Mr E. Symes, the Acting Secretary, by post to:
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