

Balfour Beatty

Capital Projects

POWERLINK

Background

Balfour Beatty has acted as co-promoter/developer and co-investor in Powerlink, which consists of two companies, EDFPL and PADCo. EDFPL operates the London Underground high voltage power system. PADCo is upgrading the system to enhance the reliability of operation.

Balfour Beatty has a 10% interest in EDFPL and a 25% interest in PADCo.

Project Description

The project involves the operation, maintenance and renewal of the existing power distribution network and the generating station in SE London. LUL's existing workforce was transferred to EDFPL's employment.

The project also includes the procurement of new assets which will improve the efficiency of the system, and maintenance and renewal of these assets.

The major new asset works are:

- The installation of battery supplies in all tube and sub-surface stations together with the refurbishment of generating plant at the SE London emergency generating station.
- Decommissioning Lots Road power station.
- Upgrading the Northern Line power distribution system.
- Replacing the network control system.



- Reinforcement of the distribution system and replacement of switchgear.
- Install equipment to smooth out voltage fluctuations and compensate for harmonic distortions in the power network when LUL took its normal power requirements from the National Grid after Lots Road power station closed.

Contractual Arrangements

Under the 30 year Power Services Contract Powerlink receives income from LUL in the form of an Availability Charge. Construction of the new assets is undertaken via a construction contract with the Construction Joint Venture in which Balfour Beatty has a 40% interest.

Notable Features

Powerlink was awarded the "Team of the Year Award 1998" by Utility Week.