

# Press release

# EXCEL LONDON

For immediate release: Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022

## ELIZABETH LINE OPENING IS “GAME-CHANGER” FOR LONDON EVENTS INDUSTRY SAYS ExCeL CEO

- *Elizabeth line announces official opening on May 24<sup>th</sup>*
- *London’s new high-speed train line to reduce travel times to ExCeL London by up to two thirds, with journeys from central London to the venue taking just 12 minutes*
- *Resulting time saved expected to lead to significant uplift in networking and trade*
  - *Venue’s catchment area to expand by up to 68% as a result*



**LONDON, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022:** The CEO of London’s largest events venue – ExCeL London – has heralded today’s announcement on the Elizabeth line opening as a ‘game-changer’ for the city and the recovery of the UK’s £32.1 billion events industry.

With the Royal Docks venue now having its own dedicated Elizabeth line station, in addition to two existing DLR stops, CEO Jeremy Rees says it will cut journey times by up to two thirds when it opens on May 24<sup>th</sup>, with the resulting time saved leading to a significant increase in networking and commercial trade from delegates.

Furthermore, according to a recent report by i-Transport, the new line will see the number of people within 45 minutes rail travel time of ExCeL increase by up to 68%, and those living within 120 minutes (by rail) rising to 9.2 million.

The high-speed Elizabeth line – which now becomes part of the existing TFL network – stretches more than 60 miles from Reading and Heathrow in the west to Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the east, with 24 trains running

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per hour once fully operational. For ExCeL, visitors from central London will now be able to reach the venue in as little as 12 minutes, whilst door-to-door from Heathrow Airport will be just 43 minutes.

Rees commented: “Following unprecedented times for us all, this year is critical to the recovery of the live events industry across London and the UK. Today’s announcement that the Elizabeth line will open on May 24<sup>th</sup> is undoubtedly a game-changer that will both revolutionise and spearhead that revival.

“In addition to reducing journey times and expanding catchment areas, we expect to see an even higher percentage of C-Suite delegates attending our events as a direct consequence. In short, the Elizabeth line will give people more of that most precious of commodities – time – allowing them increased opportunities to network, learn and of course trade – just as we saw pre-pandemic when some £165 billion was transacted per year at UK events.”

He added: “ExCeL is now arguably the world’s most connected event venue with two underground lines, one mainline station, an airport, road links, bus services, water taxis and even a cable car all within earshot.”

Since reopening last summer, ExCeL has welcomed more than 1.5 million visitors to the venue and is set to host 350 events this year including the all-electric Formula E championship (30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July) and the International Liver Congress (22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June). ExCeL has also embarked on an impressive 25,000sqm expansion programme to further enhance its world-class facilities and demonstrating further confidence in the return of live face-to-face events.

For more information visit [www.excel.london](http://www.excel.london)

*\* Figures quoted from 2021 report “The Tourism Recovery Plan” by Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport.*

- ENDS -

## NOTES TO EDITORS:

### Photo captions:

- 1) ExCeL London will have its own dedicated Elizabeth line station at Custom House
- 2) ExCeL London is now arguably the world’s most connected event venue
- 3) ExCeL London CEO Jeremy Rees

### About ExCeL London:

ExCeL London first opened in November 2000, in an area of huge regeneration in London’s historic Royal Docks. More than 20 years later it has become the home of world leading events and in 2019, hosted 400 shows, welcoming four million visitors from every corner of the globe. Events hosted at ExCeL generate some £4.5billion in economic impact for London and support around 37,600 jobs. Under the ownership of ADNEC, ExCeL has seen significant investment in its facilities and is currently embarking on a further 25,000sqm expansion programme. More recently it has played host to innovative live events such as the all-electric Formula E motorsport championship and the revered London International Horse Show.

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