

# 21 Years, and still counting!



## Foreword by

### Michael Hislop

Publisher of the Docklands Directory

WELCOME TO THE 21ST ANNUAL EDITION OF the Docklands & London East Directory.

Some might say that Docklands came of age some time ago, but truly this part of East London is on a giant growth curve.

The directory now covers the most dynamic part of London. Spitalfields and the City Fringe, Wapping and Limehouse, the Isle of Dogs, the Lower Lea Valley up to and including Stratford, the whole of the Royal Docks, the Greenwich Peninsula, Greenwich old town, Deptford and the Surrey Docks, Rotherhithe and Bermondsey, Butlers Wharf and up to London Bridge.

The first edition in 1984 contained 500 entries, with an emphasis on marine services and light industry, plus some heavy engineering. Today, we list some 4,000 businesses, with certain sectors demonstrating a critical mass in both national and international terms. Banking, insurance, publishing (both print and electronic), information services, legal services, data warehousing, disaster recovery, IT and web services, exhibition services and hotels are all represented by world-leading companies.

As in any mature business district, there are thousands of small to medium-sized businesses which form the bedrock of services that are essential to the success of the whole, supporting each other and to an increasing extent also serving the giants. For every HSBC or Clifford Chance, there are literally hundreds of service businesses for them to call on. Some 65% of the businesses we list have between 1 and 25 employees.

But Docklands and London East is not just about business. It has become a major residential district, and the scale and speed of house and apartment-building throughout the area has been unparalleled in recent years.

A search of our directory on the web finds 158 Estate Agents' offices, 58 of which are in E14! Not to mention the Royals, Deptford, the Greenwich peninsula and Stratford, which are all set for dynamic expansion.

Thanks in large part to the efforts of Canary Wharf, but also to other retail parks, the area is now a regional shopping magnet. The choice of restaurants, pubs and wine bars is huge, and in recent years, due in great measure to the efforts of Tower Hamlets Borough Council, the cultural and leisure attractions of the area are beginning to be taken seriously in the world of Tourism. There are more museums, areas of historical interest, and musical and artistic events here than most people are aware of.

On top of all this, a new generation of expansion is in progress. The DLR is now a major part of London's transport system, with new lines in progress and planned which will link enormous parts of East and South East London to the City and West End. London City Airport has grown into a serious-sized hub, based only minutes away from Docklands and the City. ExCeL has attracted not just major events like the World Travel Market, but a whole new generation of 4 and 5 star hotels. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has focused on East London through 2 new urban development corporations for London Thames Gateway and Thurrock, and sees East London as key to delivering the government's ambitious target for new homes. The London Development Agency also sees this area as a core part of its mission to SMEs.

The Docklands Directory is proud to demonstrate the richness of the area, both in our editorial pages and the listings, which are free to all businesses. We heartily thank all our supporters and advertisers – without them we would not be able to keep our promise to list everyone, from major banks to local cafes. Please use it to find everything you need locally. It's also on the web at [www.docklandsdirectory.com](http://www.docklandsdirectory.com).

We the publishers are positioning ourselves as an information resource for the area, and we are expanding, with other directories and new initiatives, so watch this space!

**Michael Hislop**