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For immediate release

Nelio wins Top London Bus Driver

Tolworth driver Nelio Rebelo-Goncalves has won the award for the Top London Bus Driver at the UK Bus Awards which comes with a cheque for £1,000 and a personal word of thanks from the Mayor.

Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, said: "Our bus drivers have to deal with a huge range of challenges every day as they navigate the streets and ferry Londoners safely and speedily from A to B. To deal with these challenges with a good spirit and professionalism that is recognised by colleagues and passengers is a true achievement, and marks bus driver Nelio Rebelo-Goncalves out as a true ambassador for London. Well done!"

Nelio was up against seven of the best-performing drivers in London but his combination of outstanding driving standards, first class customer service and accident free driving record gave him the top spot! He was commended by the judges for his politeness and unruffled charm, his care for elderly passengers, and his rapport with school children.

Only the birth of his son, named Romeo, prevented him being there on the day to receive his award in person, which was accepted by Tolworth colleague Lee Elliott.

Nigel Stevens, Managing Director, Transdev London, said: "We are really proud of Nelio's achievements, which have been made even more special by the birth of his son."

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The Top London Bus Driver Award is jointly sponsored by Transport for London (TfL) and the Luke Rees-Pulley Charitable Trust to recognise outstanding achievement of staff running the Capital's bus network, and was presented by Richard Rees-Pulley. David Brown, TfL's Managing Director of Surface Transport, said: "London's bus drivers are some of the best in the country and we rigorously assess their performance to ensure that they provide a high level of service to our passengers. In winning this award Nelio has not only performed exceptionally on all of our measures, but has gone the extra mile to impress colleagues and passengers alike with his dedication to the job."

The UK Bus Awards were presented at Battersea Evolution on Tuesday 18 November in front of an audience of 800 bus industry representatives. The ceremony was hosted by BBC economics editor Stephanie Flanders and awards were presented by David Quarmby, CBE. Newly appointed transport minister, Rt Honourable Paul Clark MP, was guest speaker.

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Editor's Notes

Transdev London

Transdev London comprises two of the premier bus operating companies in the capital, London United and London Sovereign. It runs a network of routes across Central, West and South-West London, with over 150 million passenger journeys each year. London United became part of the Transdev Group in 1997. The Company operates from six garages based in Fulwell, Hounslow, Hounslow Heath, Shepherd's Bush, Stamford Brook and Tolworth, employing more than 2000 staff and maintaining a fleet of 650 buses. Sister company, London Sovereign, joined the Group in 2002. It operates 12 routes throughout North-West London from two garages in Edgware and Harrow. With a fleet of 100 buses it carries more than 25 million passengers a year.

The Transdev Group in brief:

Transdev, subsidiary of Caisse des Dépôts, is the 4th largest private operator of public transport in Europe. With 12 tramway networks (Grenoble, Madrid, Melbourne, Montpellier, Mulhouse, Nantes, Nottingham, Orléans, Strasbourg, Tenerife, Utrecht and Valenciennes), two networks under construction (Edinburgh, Reims), and two metros in operation (Porto, Genoa), Transdev is a world leader on this market.

Present in nine countries, in Europe and in Canada and Australia, Transdev provides transport to more than 1.2 billion passengers a year.

The Group manages a fleet of more than 20,000 vehicles, including 15,000 coaches and buses, 1,000 tramways, 90 metro units, 30 trains, 70 trolleys, 40 river shuttles and 4,000 transport on demand vehicles, a market on which Transdev is the European leader.

Transdev employs over 41,000 people, managing a turnover of 3.3 billion euros in 2008.

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