



## CALL FOR PAPERS

Next year(2009) the world's first Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) system will open at London's Heathrow Airport (LHR). The system will comprise some 4 kilometers of track and will link one station in terminal 5 to 2 alternative stations on the business carpark. This simple application will later be expanded to include 30 kilometers of track, 350 vehicles and 50 stations serving terminals 1, 2, 3 and 5 and linking them to office blocks and hotels in the vicinity of the airport. The system selected for this first application is the ULTra System designed by Martin Lowson. It comprises small, light, rubber tyred, battery powered vehicles which run nonstop from the boarding station to the alighting station carrying 1-4 passengers.

On the assumption that this first UK system works satisfactorily, PRT systems are likely soon to have urban and suburban applications. PRT's great strength will be its ability to compete with the private car in the dispersed suburban travel markets which have largely been created by the car. There are already proposals for urban PRT systems in the UK, while overseas there have been feasibility studies of regional and even national systems. The object of the conference is to allow delegates to see the ULTra system in action at LHR, to inform them about progress being made elsewhere and to consider the future roles and significance of PRT. On the third morning on the conference, delegates will additionally be able to hear presentations from the European CityMobil groups who have been exploring other ways in which 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology may transform urban transport.

The conference already has a rapidly filling programme of technical papers which describe the ULTra system, the way it will function at LHR and some of the feasibility studies already carried out of its applications elsewhere. The conference organizers would now like to invite papers on similar PRT systems and feasibility studies, which can be presented at the conference and form part of a bound set of conference papers. Interested authors should initially submit a 500 word (maximum) synopsis of their proposed paper to Sally Scarlett at PTRC, 1 Vernon Mews, Vernon Street, London, W14 0RL, ([sallys@ptrc-training.co.uk](mailto:sallys@ptrc-training.co.uk)).