

Mayor welcomes news of 10 new tenants for Royal Albert Docks

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ABP is redeveloping the Royal Albert Dock into a hub for Asian businesses.

Mayor Boris Johnson has welcomed pledges from ten Chinese businesses to move to London's Royal Albert Docks.

The Docks are to be transformed by Chinese developers ABP into a gateway for Asian and Chinese businesses seeking to do business with the UK and Europe.

When completed the development will include more than 2.5 million square feet of office space, plus retail and leisure facilities and, from 2018, direct access to Crossrail.

The ten new pledges, which include electrical manufacturers, commercial real-estate and fashion and textiles firms, take the number of firms committed to moving to the new business park to 57.

Together they're expected to account for around 600,000 sq ft of the development.

The Mayor is currently in China where he is leading a six day trade mission and on Tuesday met with ABP Chairman Mr Xu Weiping in Beijing.

City Hall says the pair discussed plans to work with the UK government to revamp Enterprise Zone business incentives for the Royal Docks.

Mayor Johnson, said: "My vision is to develop a world class international business district, creating local jobs and growth and strengthening trade between east and west. Today, as we welcome the commitment of 10 businesses to the Asian Business Park, we are another step closer to achieving this."

Mr Xu Weiping has announced plans to host a "unique" trade event to link suppliers and buyers from Britain and China at London's Excel Centre next summer.

Several hundred Chinese businesses will be invited to demonstrate their products in a workshop style environment. Already popular in China this would be a first event of its kind and scale in London.

Chairman of ABP, Mr Xu Weiping, said: "I am delighted to welcome the Mayor of London to China. We have worked closely together to make the £1bn Royal Albert Dock development a reality. Following discussions in London a month ago and the announcement of our new Global Headquarters, I am very pleased the Mayor is in Beijing to meet businesses here and encourage them to make their home in the Royal Docks."