

June 2017

Introducing the Rail Forum Quarterly update!

Here your Rail Forum team will keep you up to date on the RFEM's recent activities, progress and what events are not to be missed!

Part of our promise to 'provide a strong collective voice'

A key role for Rail Forum is to ensure government understands the importance of the industry to the region and the wider UK economy, and acts on the issues that our supply chain members face. With this in mind the RFEM has hosted a number of official visits over the last six months including a working lunch with **Secretary of State for Transport Chris Grayling**, and most recently 3 officials from the department for **Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy**, who visited a number of members over a 3-day period. These visits granted the RFEM the opportunity to reinforce some key messages on behalf of members including:

- Concerns about supplier 'substitution' post contract awards,
- The need to 'encourage' greater UK content and SME involvement with OEMs,
- Managing the transition between CP5 and CP6,
- Use of more output-based specifications and whole life costing (which would support the UK supply chain),
- The barriers to innovation faced by SMEs trying to get new products approved.

Many of these issues have existed for some time, but we do sense greater willingness on the part of government to work, with the industry, to

find solutions. One mechanism for this is through a potential 'Sector Deal'.

In January, the then government launched their Industrial Strategy green paper. RFEM then hosted a joint **consultation event** with RIA to seek member feedback from members. This, together with individual company feedback, helped to form the basis of our response on behalf of our members. The green paper proposed the idea of 'Sector Deals' for key industries; effectively creating partnerships between government and industry. Work is now commencing on the development of a Sector Deal for rail and the Rail Forum will be contributing to this important work over the coming weeks and months.

[Click here](#) to view the final RFEM member's Industrial Strategy response document.



We are also members of the recently created **Rail Supply Group SME Council** which provides an additional platform for us to ensure members voices are heard.

iRail 2017

Part of our promise to 'invest in people and skills'...

iRail 2017 was held on 14th March at Pride Park Stadium. The event was a resounding success and the all-female winning team came from Loughborough High School. Planning for iRail 2018 is now underway and the event is set to be bigger than ever!

[Click here](#) to view the Rail Media's fantastic video of the event.

Railtex 2017

Part of our promise to 'promote and showcase the capabilities of members'...



In May 2017, the Rail Forum returned to Railtex with a stand complete with a full-sized toilet module, cab front, and an array of virtual reality and 3D printing kit... So, it would be fair to say our Railtex presence was a bit of a showstopper! We were joined by a fantastic group of member companies including Birley Manufacturing, Datum, University of Derby and Design & Analysis.

This collaborative approach; whereby a number of members share a larger stand than would otherwise be possible, is something we plan to build on moving forward. The Rail Forum team are also looking at how the RFEM can best support its members and 'Team UK' at InnoTrans 2018. We are therefore calling on members to form a **Collaboration for Future Exhibitions Project Group**. This is open to all members, even if you are planning to have your own presence at the show.

If you are interested in getting involved please contact Sophia@midlandsrail.co.uk



"Railtex 2017 was quite simply our best exhibition to date. The show it's self was busier this year with an even spread of attendance over the three days. Collaboration with the Rail Forum and the other stand members added an extra dimension and increased foot fall with never dull moment. We made some great contacts and thoroughly enjoyed every minute doing it. I look forward to the next collaborative event with the Rail Forum"
Carl Woolley, Managing Director, Design & Analysis Ltd.

Rail Forum AGM 2017 & Nottingham Trams Depot Tour

Part of our promises to 'share information & knowledge,' and 'promote & showcase the capabilities of members'...

Last week we held the Rail Forum Annual General Meeting at Geldards LLP's Nottingham offices. The meeting gave members a detailed update on the last 12 months' activities, finances and plans for the future.

There were a number of director re-elections; including long-standing board members and friends of the Rail Forum such as Peter Roberts of Signal House Group. We would also like to welcome Tidycos Barry Aldridge as a new director!

As you will be aware, the **Rail Forum is run by its members for its members**, meaning the elected board of directors work alongside the RFEM team to drive the Forum's day-to-day activities and ensure your views are appropriately represented.

Copies of financial accounts are available on request.

After the AGM, guests then travelled to the Nottingham Trams depot on an exclusive RFEM service, where the Tram team gave a fascinating presentation on their recent developments and current projects. Delegates were then treated to a full tour of the depot facilities!

Thanks again to all who helped to make it a fantastic trip!

Your RFEM Team Has Changed

Rail Forum Administrator Sue Dean, retired at the end of March after over twenty years in the industry. We wish Sue all the very best! We would now like to introduce you to the new Rail Forum Engagement Manager, Robert Hodgson. Robert also has over twenty years' experience working for TRB Lightweight Structures and has considerable knowledge of the rail supply chain, especially rolling stock.

Moving forward, Robert will be engaging with members to maximise forthcoming opportunities within the industry in both the rolling stock and infrastructure sectors. We have also been joined by Business and Finance student, Conor Newby. Conor is currently studying at the University of Derby and is now two weeks into a six month, part-time internship at the Rail Forum. Conor will be helping the team with finances, admin and event support. Big welcome to the new recruits!

New RFEM Patrons

As you will be aware, the RFEM membership structure has recently been revamped and now comprises of a series of packages from standard to Patron membership. We are delighted to announce that several companies have accepted our invitation to upgrade their membership to Patron! These companies have been long-time supporters of the RFEM and play a vital role in the work we do. We would like to thank Porterbrook Leasing Ltd, Resonate, Bombardier and SNC Lavalin for their ongoing commitment!

Part of our promise to 'invest in people & skills'

Our Derby College Rail Employment and Skills Academy is now up and running, and the first 15 engineering students have been recruited into the academy. The employer advisory board is well established under the chairmanship of ISS Labour CEO Simon Higgens, with some 20 companies involved representing all different aspects of our sector. Next term, students will benefit from work placements and industry projects with a view to applying for apprenticeships with rail companies once they have completed their fulltime studies.

The college will be holding a second 'Insight into Rail' recruitment day for the academy in October - this will be focussed on a much wider range of students, not just those studying engineering.

New degree level apprenticeships are now being developed and a key issue in the future will be to ensure employers understand which Higher Education (HE) providers are going to deliver what programmes. This is also important to ensure that providers have enough students to make their programmes viable. To this end, RFEM are establishing a "**Higher Education Focus Group**" involving local universities. The intention is to meet just twice a year to establish a co-ordinated approach to delivery of apprenticeships, explore opportunities for

'apprentice sharing schemes', and ensure that employers know what options exist for them in terms of provision. If you'd like to be involved with the group please contact elaineclark@midlandrail.co.uk

We also launched our Education Outreach Programme earlier this year and we have some 18 employers committed to collectively delivering up to 150 days of outreach activity into schools, colleges and universities. This might be in the form of a lecture/school visit, running a CV writing workshop or hosting a site visit to their factories. We are currently focussing on three major events in the annual calendar; our own iRail events, the East Midlands Big Bang Science Fair and the industry's Railweek – which this year runs from 9th October.

More and more clients are now asking for evidence of what potential suppliers are doing to support skills development. Getting involved in some of the above activities enables members to both genuinely contribute and to demonstrate to potential clients that they are actively supporting this important agenda.

Part of our promise to 'accelerate Research and Innovation'

The industry is still waiting to hear whether we have been successful in a joint bid to the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) to develop the proposed Centres of Rail Excellence to be collectively known as the UK Rail Research and Innovation Network (UKRRIN). In the meantime, there are a couple of specific initiatives to bring to members' attention.

Network Rail has developed a series of Challenge Statements. These statements set out specific issues or challenges they face, and where they are looking for ideas and innovation from the supply chain to help solve them. Currently there are some 37 statements with more likely to be added after the summer. Over

the coming weeks, we will feature one challenge theme in each of our news bulletins. This update will look at Building and Civils as there are 13 statements covering this topic. Issues include bridges, drainage and tunnels; so, if any of these are your area of expertise it's worth taking a more detailed look at what it is they are looking for. Visit <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/industry-commercial-partners/research-development-technology/research-development-programmes/challenge-statements/>

Many of you may be aware of Network Rail's new Design for Reliability or 'DFR' standard. This was issued in June 2016 and mandated from April 2017. To drive a step change in performance, we must go beyond the reactive fixing of issues and suppliers will need to use the type of proactive avoidance techniques common in automotive, aerospace and many other industries. The DFR approach starts with making sure Network Rail accurately specifies what they want; it looks at how suppliers translate this into characteristics of their products, then into process parameters that they use when they build them, and finally into controls they can apply to confidently deliver what's required.

DFR then identifies all the possible risks affecting the product's function, its manufacturing process and how it is installed. These risks are prioritised and suppliers address the most important first. Suppliers also need to conduct studies beyond calibration to show that their test equipment is insensitive to who uses it and variations in how they use it. Suppliers must then build confidence in their products using tests that reflect real conditions on the railway, with trials being the very final validation, where failures are a rarity.

Network Rail tell us that the DFR process has been positively received by suppliers who like the fact that it clarifies what is expected from them in terms of reliability.

RFEM would welcome your feedback on how DFR is working for you and whether members would welcome the opportunity of a workshop session with Network rail to better understand DFR requirements.

Our **Research and Innovation Acceleration Group** will kick off from September and we are looking for a number of members to help shape our priorities and activities to get involved please get in touch.

Take part in Nomad's new ICT 2017 survey for the chance to win an iPad Mini

RFEM member Nomad has opened its Rail Industry Survey for 2017: *'What are the major challenges facing rail operators, maintainers, owners and train builders, and the role of ICT?'*

All completed surveys are automatically entered into Nomad's FREE Prize Draw to win an iPad Mini 4 32GB WiFi. Terms and Conditions apply. The survey will close on 31st July 2017.

[Click here](#) to enter.

Birley ML Members' Offer **Industrial workbench solutions – 20% discount available to all RFEM Members**

Renowned for their experience in the design and manufacture of Rail interiors, Birley also supplies the industry with a full range of cost-effective assembly and packing workbenches. These can be custom designed, supplied with ESD protection if required and accessorized to streamline work processes. In application, these benches can either be used as free-standing modules, or interlinked to meet the change in manufacturing or process demands. Please contact Phil Hingley for more information – philhingley@birleym.com

Forthcoming Events

Summer BBQ Networking Event

14:30 – 17:30, 14th July 2017

Pitcher & Piano, Derby, DE1 1BX.

Join us for an exclusive RFEM members' networking event at Derby's Pitcher & Piano. Ticket are priced at £15 plus VAT per person and include a selection of BBQ dishes and a welcome drink.

[Click here](#) to secure your place.

Entry Talent Summit for Apprentices & Graduates

09:00 – 18:00, 14th September 2017

**Nottingham Trent University, Clifton Campus, Nottingham
NG11 8NS.**

Rail Forum East Midlands Rail Entry Talent Summit for Apprentices and Graduates will be held on 14th September at NTU's Clifton Campus. Aimed at all rail apprentices, recent graduates and other young people who are undertaking or have recently completed a structured training program.

[Click here](#) for further details.

Annual Conference

08:30 – 15:00, 19th October 2017

Pride Park Stadium, Derby, DE24 8XL.

Planning for this year's RFEM Conference is now underway.

Confirmed speaker from Hitachi, Network Rail, RDG and RSG.

Full details, speakers and sponsors to be announced imminently.

[Click here](#) to book your complimentary tickets.

If you have any queries relating to any of our planned events, please contact
Sophia@midlandsrail.co.uk