

Autumn 2024 Update

Informing our rail community

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR, WILL ROGERS



Since the last Quarterly Update there has been a major shift in the UK political landscape with the election of a Labour Government for the first time since 2005 when Tony Blair won a third term in office. We have a new Secretary of State, new Rail Minister and of course new Ministers and MPs across all departments and across the country. We also have a new Chair of the Transport Select Committee (although remaining Committee members are still to be announced). The team have been busy starting to establish relationships with key individuals in the administration and this will be an ongoing piece of work.

The new Government has been quick to commit to rail reform with two rail bills confirmed for this first session of parliament – one paving the way for the nationalisation of passenger service operators and one covering wider rail reform. On 3 September the Secretary of State launched Shadow GBR kickstarting the work to bring together track and train ahead of the formal legislation to create GBR. Paul Harwood of GBR TT shares more about what this means later in this update.

We have also been busy inducting two new members of the team. Will Broad joined us at the end of July and Laura May at the end of August. I know you will extend a warm welcome to them both. I would like to extend my personal thanks to David Kierton for his support over the last few months, bridging the gap, until Laura arrived.

Our AGM and Summer Gathering in July were both very well attended and hugely successful and I enjoyed catching up with a number of members across the two events.

Preparations are now well advanced for our Annual Conference on 15 October. This year the conference will be centred around 'Harnessing the Power of the SME Community' across 4 sessions - Embracing Innovation; Exporting UK Rail; Celebrating Manufacturing and Encouraging Collaboration. We are also delighted to welcome Alex Hynes, Director General, Rail Services for Dept. for Transport who will join us as our Keynote Speaker.

I look forward to seeing you there.

W. Rogers

NEW MEMBERS!

We are delighted to welcome 8 new members who have recently joined us, these are listed below. More information about each of them can be found on page 27.

Bosch Security & Safety Systems, Circet Group, Clarus Networks Group, Comet, K2C Rail, Mulraney Components, Railway Competence Group and The Spencer Group

INDUSTRY & POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

Time seems to have flown by since our Summer Quarterly Update and just like the last edition, there's lots to update our members on from an industry and political engagement perspective.

July saw the Labour Party take victory at the General Election, the change of Government bringing the opportunity but also challenge of forging several new relationships plus developing those already established.

On 17 July, the King's Speech introduced new Government legislative plans which relate to rail. Since then, the Passenger Railway Services Bill has reached final stages in the Commons and the Transport Secretary has instructed the CEO of Network Rail, the Director General for Rail Services in the Department for Transport, and the CEO of DfT OLR Holdings Ltd (DOHL) to establish a Shadow Great British Railways.

- **Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Bill** - this Bill means that train operations will transfer to a public-sector operator as existing contracts expire or operators fail to meet their commitments.
- **Railways Bill** - this Bill will make legislative changes to bring track and train together, with Great British Railways (GBR) acting as a "directing mind", managing the network and delivering passenger services. The Government is setting up a "shadow GBR" ahead of the formal establishment of GBR.
- **High Speed Rail (Crewe to Manchester) Bill** - this Bill provides powers to construct and operate rail projects which improve east to west connectivity across the north of England - it is not a reversal of the decision by the previous Government to cancel the second phase of HS2)

Other Bills that impact rail:

- **English Devolution Bill** - legislating for a standardised devolution framework which grants local leaders greater powers in areas including strategic planning and local transport networks
- **Planning and Infrastructure Bill** - streamlining the planning process to accelerate the delivery of major infrastructure projects
- **Workers' Rights Bill** - within this Bill, please note the plan to ban zero-hours contracts as one of the reforms.

All Change? Rail under the new Government

Just two days after the King's Speech, Jemma was delighted to represent Rail Forum at the 'All Change? Rail Under the New UK Government' seminar hosted by Cogitamus in partnership with Rail Forum in London. Several places were made available for members to attend, including: 3Squared, Coombes,

DB Cargo, DeSimone, East Midlands Railway, Eversholt, Grinsty Rail, Icomera UK, Northern Rail, Oaklin, Rail Positive Relations, Siemens, Signature Rail, SLC Rail, Stadler, Transport Design International and West Midlands Trains.

A summary of key points, policy ideas and priorities from the Seminar can be found on the [Members' Area of the website](#).

At the end of July, the new Chancellor, the Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP, made a statement in the house setting out the findings from the public spending review she initiated when she took office. She stated that a £22bn overspend had been uncovered and as a result a number of difficult decisions were now being taken. Some of these will be well reported in the mainstream media but specifically in relation to rail the Restoring Your Railway scheme has now been cancelled for projects not yet started and there will be a DfT review of all unfunded transport projects. The Chancellor announced a budget for **30 October**.

Building relationships with Combined Authorities

We have been engaging with the Mayoral Combined Authorities and have met with transport leads (either via Teams or in person) or have meetings in the pipeline. Integrated transport, active travel and modal shift are common threads, and our key messaging is that the supply chain can help deliver their transport priorities. We will continue to build and develop these relationships.

Roundtables and visits (MPs / DBT)

At the beginning of August, we were delighted to welcome two brand-new Labour MPs for an 'Insight to Rail' day which included [visits](#) to some members from within their constituencies along with an informative [roundtable discussion](#).

Visits included Resonate, HÜBNER Group, DB ESG, Serco and Millenium Site Services UK.

Our thanks to Baggy Shanker, MP of Derby South and Catherine Atkinson, MP of Derby North for their time and engagement. Thank you also to our member visit hosts and to DB ESG for hosting the roundtable discussion.



INDUSTRY & POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

Then at the start of September, we were delighted to host Neil Hodgson, Deputy Director for Dept. for Business & Trade (DBT), plus Ivan Youd, Senior Policy Advisor (Rail) at DBT for some [member visits and a mini roundtable lunch](#) in the North East.

Visits included Washington Metalworks, Petards Rail and Stadler Rail Service UK. The roundtable lunch, kindly hosted by Petards Rail, reinforced some of the ongoing challenges members are facing to DBT.



Health Check of the UK Rail Supply Chain

Last week we sent a 'health check' questionnaire to the Primary and Primary Exec contacts of our members. The purpose of this survey is to gain a clear picture of the current state of the supply chain, and to understand its resilience and we would be grateful if members

could take five minutes to complete it. This information will help to support our advocacy to Government and key stakeholders. Please be assured, all responses will be collated and anonymised.

Deadline for completion: Tuesday 8th October at 17:00

Link to our survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/Zhxx60CFt8>

Transport Action Network - DfT Capital Spend Review Submission

Transport Action Network (TAN) published its [submission](#) to the urgent review of the UK Department for Transport's infrastructure capital spending portfolio, commissioned by Transport Secretary Louise Haigh MP.

Commenting on the submission, Elaine Clark OBE said: "Rail Forum welcomes the challenge provided by the TAN submission to the review of the DfT's infrastructure capital spending portfolio. If the UK is to grasp the imperative of decarbonising our economy we must break the cycle of road building that leads to increased road traffic. Taking long-term decisions that unleash the potential of rail, encouraging modal shift and driving economic growth is a far better use of the public funding available".

See their press release [here](#).

NEW MEMBERS OF RAIL FORUM TEAM

Laura May

After sitting on our board for 5 years, Laura May has now joined the Rail Forum team as Engagement Manager, predominately looking after our infrastructure members. Over her twelve year career in the rail industry, Laura has worked in a large, international corporation as well as an SME.

This experience, alongside time spent on our board, gives her a good appreciation of the issues faced by our broad membership base.

"Whilst I have been around the industry for a while now, infrastructure as a section of rail is new to me. This role gifts me the most fantastic opportunity to listen, learn and provide support to our members and I am really looking forward to meeting you all and working with you to ensure you maximise your membership benefits moving forwards".



Will Broad

"As the Digital Marketing Executive at Rail Forum, I specialise in amplifying our brand, comms, and strategic marketing initiatives within the rail industry.

With previous experience working in a Business Development capacity for a Tier 1 Rail Infrastructure Monitoring Technologies company, I understand the challenges faced by companies operating in the sector and am able to apply this knowledge with me in my capacity to support our members.

Today, my role involves applying digital strategies to enhance member engagement, as well as supporting event planning and execution. I also oversee our annual Rail Safety Week campaign, manage all company social media activities, design and develop brand assets, as well as support the team with member account management and general content generation."



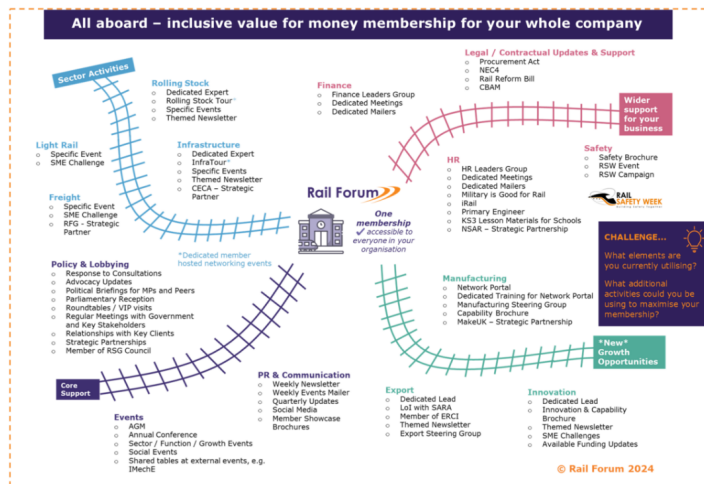
MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

It has been wonderful to see members embracing the new workstreams that were introduced this membership year and you can find lots of information providing updates on all three, throughout this quarterly update. And whilst this support is important to members' growth strategies, we do recognise that there are challenging operating conditions for many members: a particularly slow start to CP7 has already had a significant impact on the supply chain, and the fiscal pressures leveraged through the Train Operators has also impacted suppliers in varying ways.

We understand that whilst some members are meeting targets, others are working short-time, seeking revenue streams outside of rail and some are making redundancies. This is sadly not new to the cycle of rail.

For the membership update this quarter, I really want to explore how members are using the membership to support them in these challenging conditions with particular reference to the support of your Account Manager.

Account Managers are your link into effectively accessing membership services – they can work with you to highlight what elements of membership can really support your own corporate objectives. Reviewing the handy schematic below is a great way to make a quick assessment of your engagement (and ROI!)



So below are just a few different areas your Account Manager may be able to help you:

- Innovating? We may ask you to speak at a future event
- Expanded product/service offering? We want to share your news
- New facility or site or project? We may ask to visit to promote your capabilities
- Got questions about rail? Ask away!

Want to try something new or have a suggestion? Talk to us

Account Managers are also our link to understanding your issues and concerns. It's a fundamental and unique part of our offering which ensures our services to you remain relevant and that we can shape our lobbying and advocacy activity accordingly. It all starts with YOU and YOUR ACCOUNT MANAGER!

So what exactly can we do?

That is a great question. We (sadly) do not have a magic wand to make everything that's wrong, right. However, if we do not know what your issues and concerns are, then we definitely **can not** help. Some issues and concerns are not unique to you – knowing that something is having an industry / sector wide impact means that we can respond quickly. Some issues and concerns are very unique to you – it may be skills, retention, supplier / customer related, procurement or payment related, export or innovation...if it is causing you bother, then we are keen to know. We have a wide membership, an extensive support network and of course political reach that arrives with a large membership body. At least one of those options may help you.

How DO we help?

The responses to raised concerns and issues vary enormously however there is one absolute: We will never do anything about your concern without your permission.

We also very rarely identify an organisation raising a concern (and if we do, its with your permission). We liaise across the team to ensure we can see emerging patterns, and these are raised in appropriate ways – that could be to flag with the Board for discussion, flag to an intermediary, flag to Government etc.

Not everything we do is on social media. You won't find examples of how we are supporting members with issues and concerns on LinkedIn and I won't be listing areas of help we have provided. Your discussions with us are confidential.

I do hope that this section has given you food for thought and would ask you to consider:

- Are you engaging with your Account Manager?
- Does your Account Manager know your corporate objectives and what you want from your membership?
- Have you expressed your concerns and issues with your Account Manager?

If the answer is no to any of these, drop me a line: cat@railforum.uk

FINANCE LEADERS GROUP

The next finance leaders group is scheduled for 30 September and is proving popular with members, not least of all because of the speakers, John Gerrard, Finance Lead for GBRTT, and Chris Hare, Economist from HSBC will have lots of meaty updates given the changes that have taken place since the General Election. We will share brief notes from this on the Finance Leaders section in the Members Area after the event.



Chris Hare, HSBC



John Gerrard, GBR TT

Your hot topics

We remain keen to hear from the finance leaders of our members to understand the issues, concerns and pressures that are particularly causing worry. We also encourage members to let us know what speakers or topics they would like discuss at future meetings. If you have concerns, or suggestions, do please contact cat@railforum.uk. Our next programme of events will be launched in due course but in the meantime, dates for your diary: 20/1/25, 9/6/25 and 22/9/25

Budget

With a budget shortly upon us, 30 October, we do expect some specific correspondence with members regarding this and we wait, like you, in bated breath to see what the new Government has in store for us all. Again, any feedback on this to cat@railforum.uk

HR LEADERS GROUP

Earlier this month we hosted our Military is Good for Rail (MIGFR) event with the HR Leaders Group Meeting on the same day and for the first time in person!

Members of the group were able to visit MIGFR and network with each other prior to the formal meeting where we had an update on Employment Law from Rachel Mills of Nelsons. Rachel touched on changes to sexual harassment legislation and also highlighted a number of key employment tribunals.

We also discussed apprenticeship standards (specifically whether these were fit for purpose across all rail activities) and school and college engagement opportunities.

With the new Labour Government promising a major review of employment law, it is likely we will see significant activity in this area over the coming few years. Much, if not all, of this change could have considerable impact on the rail sector; not least with the stated intention of banning zero hours contracts.

The updates provided through the HR Group will be invaluable for your HR Leaders so please make them aware of the meetings and the opportunity to join the group.

Notes and slides from the meetings are available in the members area of the website.

For members local to Derby the **Derby College Rail Employment and Skills Academy Board** is being revitalised and companies who have been involved previously should have been contacted with dates for meetings for this coming academic year. If you want to find out more about the purpose and work of the Board please contact elaine@railforum.uk

As mentioned above our MIGFR event was held earlier this month. Conversations on the day indicate significantly fewer people leaving the forces than in previous years with a lot of opportunities in other sectors. This means that this pool of trusted rail recruits is getting smaller and we are looking at how we can maximise the impact of future events to attract potential new rail employees for members.



PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

Location360 Enhances Safety in the Severn Tunnel for South Rail Systems Alliance

During a critical 16-day blockade of the Severn Tunnel, **MacRail** deployed their **Location360** solution to improve safety for the **South Rail Systems Alliance (SRSA)**.

In collaboration with **Weston Analytics**, MacRail developed this real-time tracking technology to monitor the movements of approximately 450 workers, addressing significant challenges faced by SRSA.



SRSA's traditional manual tracking system was labour-intensive, error-prone, and inadequate during emergencies. Faced with these issues and tight deadlines, SRSA sought a more efficient and accurate solution.

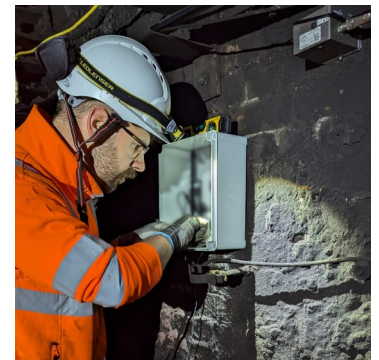
MacRail responded by creating Location360, a bespoke automated tracking system. Designed specifically for SRSA's needs, Location360 utilised non-contact tags to record workforce movements with zero friction, minimising manual effort and improving accuracy.

The system provided immediate, precise roll-call reports, crucial for emergency situations, and ensured that worker locations were continuously monitored.



The implementation of Location360 resulted in significant safety and operational improvements. Over **623 tags** were allocated, capturing **one million data transactions** during the blockade. The system saved time, reduced human error, and enhanced overall safety.

The success of Location360 in the Severn Tunnel has highlighted its potential for future projects. MacRail and Weston Analytics are now exploring enhancements based on SRSA's feedback, aiming to expand the system's use in various industries and infrastructure projects.



If you would like to discuss the use of tracking technology on your next project, call our office on 01934 319331 or email us via sales@macrail.co.uk.

INNOVATION PARTNER UPDATE

I am absolutely thrilled to have been asked to write a regular article about Innovation for this Rail Forum quarterly newsletter.

An excellent transport system and the creation and adoption of Innovation are vital drivers of a thriving economy.

Yet Innovation in rail feels like watching the England football team this summer (did we have a summer?) Metaphorically like driving with the handbrake on.

All the components are there but for some reason (and I'm sure you'll have an opinion why) it just can't get going and fulfil the truly world class potential evident throughout the system.

It's my job for Innovate UK to find and support innovative SME's that can make a difference to society, communities and our economy.

Innovate UK is the UK's Innovation Agency and has a vast range of products and services to help innovative businesses at every stage of their journey from Start-up to Scale-up.

For instance, we have over 400 Innovation and Growth Specialists nationwide, so it seemed sensible

to me to utilise those resources for the benefit of the UK's rail sector, to try and bridge the gap between the concept and commercialisation of innovation.

I'm under no illusions how challenging a task this is – but why not? After all, Innovation is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration.

I'm looking forward to collaborating with Rail Forum to "Bridge the Gap" and meeting as many of you as possible as we aim to make a difference.

Please connect on LinkedIn and look out for our Innovation themed events.

Ian Evley



What's new with you?

The Innovation Workstream is gathering speed following our first innovation event that took place in July, and we are keen to ensure we look at a wide portfolio of innovation angles.

Specialist support

You may have spotted the recent announcement that Ian Evley, Specialist Advisor for InnovateUK is working with our members, particularly SMEs, to support their Innovation journey. It's a minefield out there and finding support can be a challenge but having Ian's and the team to help you navigate is very beneficial. Find out how he can support your innovation [here](#)

InnovateUK offers 1:1 support from a specialist advisor, access to grant funding and finance opportunities and export support. Contact your account manager for a referral to Ian.

Innovation Ready?

- Are looking to grow
- Do you have management commitment to innovation
- Are seeking guidance for process innovation, product innovation or service innovation

International Collaboration

We are delighted to be working with the European Rail Clusters Initiative (did you know that Rail Forum are a member?) and InnovateUK to bring this 'Innovating Rail through International Collaboration' event. This online event seeks to bring together rail innovators across Europe to build new connections and foster greater opportunities to innovate.

With a range of speakers providing a range of industry perspectives on innovation in rail, we look forward to a robust Q&A panel ahead of the highlight of the event, the 1 to 1 meetings!



Using the EEN's B2Match platform, the real value of this event is its ability to connect people. But how, I hear you ask! Its simple! By carefully completing your profile on the B2Match platform, you can help other attendees to find you!

Top tips for recreating an effective profile! Be clear about....

- What you are looking for? (Suppliers / Innovators you are seeking / Outlining challenge areas of interest)

Who should attend?

- A rail asset owner or operator seeking solutions
- An innovating company with ideas, products and services to transform rail activities
- A collaborator offering support to make new products and services 'rail-ready'
- A partner offering know-how, materials, processes and support to take ideas and make them reality
- An integrator that can bring people in rail together

A supporter or funder of rail innovation

Register today: <https://www.b2match.com/e/innovation-in-rail>

A test location or a prototyping organisation with rail expertise

- Who you want to work with? (specific company/ technology area)

Or How you can help? (funding/support/ demonstrators etc)

Our thanks to event partners EEN and Cork Chamber.

Testing Innovation

We are thrilled to be working with Porterbrook to schedule this networking event and tour of Long Marston site. This session, running 11:30- 2:30 will give innovators, partners, collaborators and customers the opportunity to discuss that important commercialisation element of testing and demonstrators to move your concept to TRL 6, right the way through to TRL 9.

The date has been set for 28 November and we look forward to welcoming speakers from across the industry to discuss testing innovation in rail including Connected Places Catapult and InnovateUK. Keep an eye on the Events Mailers (issuing Thursdays)

Which ties in nicely with a series of events that FOAK 2023 winners have been doing recently, presenting their award-winning ideas. We have had the pleasure to attend a number of these.

Well done to all FOAK winners and we look forward to seeing your ideas a reality!

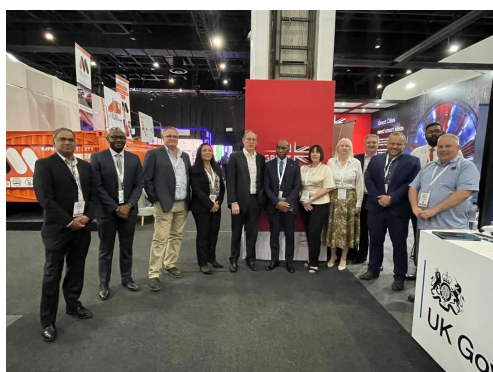
And finally, did you know that as a member of the European Rail Clusters Initiative, we can nominate our members to speak on innovation webinars. These are taking place at least once per month so if you have something to present to 18 rail clusters across Europe, contact cat@railforum.uk

By the time this QU edition arrives in your inbox, the 'greatest (rail) show' that is Innotrains will have completed and no doubt, we will all have aching legs, sore feet, and a boat load of actions following meetings with existing and new contacts across the global rail sector. Elaine, Dave and Cat attended, with a plan to see as many members as possible, support ERCI Awards activity and Elaine also spoke on a Panel session! We will share how they got on in the next QU!

In the meantime, activity on international front continues to keep us busy and there has been a little bit of globe-trotting in this quarter.

Africa

Elaine, and a number of Rail Forum members, attended the SARA conference in Johannesburg in August. With excellent support from the Department for Business & Trade including a very well-used UK stand with meeting room, Elaine and the members were able to benefit from a range of meetings including operators and funding organisations. We expect infrastructure projects and freight corridors to



provide longer range opportunities for experienced exporters and see the involvement of UK Export Finance as providing strong leverage for UK involvement.

Ireland

The team had a wonderful opportunity to visit Inchicore and were delighted to meet with Chief Engineer Peter Smyth. With a range of developments taking place in Ireland, this market represents an excellent opportunity for organisations ready to explore internationalisation. There is great support from Department for Business & Trade in market too so you are not going it alone! Plus there are a range of members already active in this market.



India

The Export Steering Group and some fellow members turn up in force to two roundtables recently. The first with the High Commission to India, Dr Murugan, and colleagues from Indo-Britain Trade Council centred around the forthcoming Innorail show in Lucknow (November).

Thanks to JFlex, Portaramp, Encompass Engineering, GOS Engineering, ECSL, Infinitive Group, TRB Lightweight structures and OE Electrics.



The second with colleagues from the Department for Business & Trade, provided a positive and open dialogue with which to explore how export support can be developed, greater knowledge sharing and building focus on SME support and identifying markets. Thanks to J Flex, Portaramp, Encompass Engineering, GOS Engineering, Infinitive Group, TRB Lightweight structures and OE Electrics.

And last but not least Kyrgyzstan

Elaine met His Excellency [Ulan Djusupov](#) the Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to discuss railway opportunities including the need for digitisation, decarbonisation, advanced technologies, electrification, training and development and more.

There are plans for significant civil and building infrastructure investment : stations, bridges and tunnels as part of the development of the railway from China across the country into Uzbekistan. Whilst not an obvious market for many, it's a great example to highlight that export opportunities in rail can be far and wide.



Exports is a very personal journey for our members. Each starting at a different point with different offerings, considering different markets and approaches. This makes support a challenge as what suits one member may not suit another. The Export Steering Group continue to develop themes of support and we are encouraged that our export activities have allowed members to benefit from greater reach, broader export opportunities and deeper dialogue with both DBT and DFT. Continue to watch this space, and feed in any export queries or requirements to cat@railforum.uk

EXPORT PARTNER UPDATE

Taking GCRE on to an International Stage

In September the Global Centre of Rail Excellence team were at InnoTrans, an important event in the international rail calendar and a vital opportunity to highlight the export potential of GCRE. As a purpose-built facility for world class rail research, testing and innovation GCRE will be attractive not just to a UK market, but across Europe, the Middle East and beyond.



Whilst in Berlin it was great to sign partnerships with Next Generation Rail Technologies (NGRT), Thales, Konux, Ulusoy Railway Systems as well as Crossrail International. We also helped launch a new £500,000 competition - Contracts for Innovation: International Rail Innovation Challenges – which invites teams to develop ideas that can support issues faced by the rail industry across the world.

InnoTrans was a chance to take the GCRE export message on to the very biggest stage and meet potential new export partners from across Europe and further afield, all interested in wanting to work with us.

What has defined GCRE's history up to now has been a spirit of partnership – the collaboration of governments and those in the worlds of rail, higher education, research, mobility and many others who have all got behind our four GCRE missions – to rebuild local prosperity; to make transport better; to pioneer a net zero railway and to renew an amazing place.

What InnoTrans showed is that our export future will be forged in that same way - built on the same dynamic and creative partnerships that have helped GCRE get this far.



PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

It's been an amazing last twelve months of growth for TVS Rail Spares.

We launched our fledgling service at Rail Live in June 2023 with great fanfare but very little brand awareness in the industry. Quite simply, people didn't know what we did and the benefits we could offer.

Fast forward a year and more than 100 different rail companies have signed up to our online catalogue, including all the infrastructure Tier 1 signalling subcontractors. We've added more than 300 new products to the catalogue as a direct result of customer feedback, on top of the 10,000 items that we started with. We've also just hit the milestone of our 1,000th follower on LinkedIn.



At TVS Rail Spares we want to be innovators in the rail market, at the forefront of technological advancements with products and services. We want to be a leader in the sector; making a difference to our customers and suppliers alike. Perhaps the best example of that was this summer at Rail Live where we launched the TVS Rail Spares Innovation Centre.

In partnership with Black Country Innovative Manufacturing Organisation (BCIMO), we showcased four innovative SMEs on our

stand, highlighting the exciting new products they are looking to launch into the rail market. Each of the SMEs had won a Clean Futures Accelerator grant, set up to support the transport sector as it transitions away from fossil fuels towards clean tech by accelerating the route to market for SMEs in the sector.

To find out more, visit www.tvsrailspares.com



RECORD NUMBER OF COMPANIES SUPPORT RAIL SAFETY WEEK

We are delighted that over 200 organisations got involved in Rail Safety Week (RSW) 2024, bringing rail safety to the forefront of people's minds in the workplace, the industry, communities and schools.

Our thanks to everyone who supported the dedicated week and to our Steering Group for their direction and input. A special thanks to Kier, the Headline Sponsor of #RSW24 and to Supporting Sponsor, Infrastructure Support Solutions, without whom we would not have been able to do so much.

The focus on health, safety and wellbeing doesn't stop with the end of RSW, let's continue to build safety together all year round; for our people, our passengers and the public.



Celebrating the winners of our 2024 RSW Children's Competitions

Last week we were delighted to announce the winners and runners-up of our 2024 Rail Safety Week Children's Competitions. Well done to every child who took part and thank you to the parents, guardians and teachers for engaging them in the activity - it's never too early to start building a culture of safety together.

A special applause to our winners, see the winners showcase [here](#).

Keep an eye out for an announcement on the dates of RSW 2025! #RSW25 #BuildingSafetyTogether



PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

Have you ever evaluated what the full cost of ordering piece parts and the associated risks with line side piece part installation for Pneumatic & Hydraulic system components is?



We could list here all the innovative and rolling stock approved products that STAUFF provide globally via our distribution network, both owned and via third parties. But is that what you need? We completely understand that installing individual smaller components not only doesn't add value, but it can add cost through inefficiencies and potential lost items.

STAUFF are not only a manufacturer of outstanding high-quality products, exceeding every standard in rail vehicle engineering such as EN45545-2 & ISO15540, we are also a solution provider and work tirelessly with our clients to enhance their production and inventory strategies.

Imagine the physical space and the investment required to have your highly qualified engineers assembling basic parts, then test them, put into stock if required and then undertaking the installation process.

STAUFF can remove the requirement for undertaking every process that occurs before the line installation operation.

Goods inbound, inventory storage solutions, sub-assemblies, assemblies, testing, certification with full traceability ... all delivered to your assembly line side J.I.T.

However, we don't think that is adequate for our clients ... we utilise tried and tested STAUFF products to improve them further and look at opportunities to offer improved products: weight saving, noise reduction, anti-vibration, anti-corrosion, products specifically design for easy installation and products that are proven to be leak free.

Our resolve is to bring our clients the best ... and we deliver!

MANUFACTURING UPDATE

The work of the Manufacturing Steering Group continues with the UK manufacturing capability brochure, following the very successful campaign celebrating UK rail manufacturing in June/July in partnership with Made in Britain. The submission window for our brochure has just closed and we are delighted to have over 50 submissions. The brochure will seek to provide a valuable source of information for organisations seeking UK suppliers across rolling stock and infrastructure and will arrive with a range of search functions to help users find exactly what they are looking for. We plan to launch this in our Annual Conference and welcome your support to both circulate the capability brochure with your colleagues and of course use the brochure yourselves to build supply chain resilience and support UK capability.

The Annual Conference will also deliver a section dedicated to manufacturing – do please book your place today! Also, we encourage manufacturing members to consider taking an exhibition table in our Expo Zone to further showcase their manufacturing capability.

Contact events@railforum.uk for more details.

Looking ahead, the Manufacturing Steering Group are exploring at a range of activities including a

Servitisation Workshop, following the interest from our recent AGM, and of course the session in our Annual Conference last year. Members can expect to find out more when the event is formally launched via our Thursday Events Mailer – do keep a look out.

As a reminder, our hard-working Manufacturing Steering Group, who meet monthly, are Alfatronix, Andertons, BCM GRC, Cembre, Composite Braiding, CWE, Datum, Diamond Rail Services, Hydram, Infotec, Signal House Group and our Manufacturing Partner for 2024-2025, Transport Design International.

Call to action

If you have any ideas and suggestions of how the Manufacturing Steering Group can support you, do please drop a note to cat@railforum.uk



PREMIUM MEMBER & MANUFACTURING PARTNER

Understanding sustainability in VLR

As a conscious citizen, everyone is looking for a greener, better mode of transport. Sustainability is integral to Very Light Rail (VLR), offering eco-friendly, battery-powered vehicles that reduce emissions, lower infrastructure costs, and promote green public transport solutions.

Transport Design International (TDI) is at the forefront of revolutionising rail mass transit with its innovative VLR solutions, designed to make transport more sustainable and efficient. As a market leader in lightweight technology, TDI's mission is to deliver affordable, environmentally friendly rail systems that address today's urgent challenges around carbon reduction.

TDI's VLR products, such as the award-winning Revolution VLR, represent a new generation of transport solutions. These vehicles are 40% lighter than traditional heavy rail systems, resulting in reduced energy consumption and lower infrastructure costs. By using advanced lightweight materials and battery-powered propulsion systems, TDI's VLR solutions offer a zero-carbon alternative to conventional transport, helping cities and regions meet their net-zero targets.

Sustainability is embedded in every aspect of TDI's manufacturing and operations approach. The reduced weight of VLR vehicles allows for the construction of

lighter, more cost-effective rail



infrastructure, enabling quicker and easier deployment of rail solutions with lower environmental impact. TDI's vehicles also feature fast-charging battery systems, eliminating the need for costly overhead pantograph electric catenary systems, ensuring smooth, energy-efficient operation.

TDI's VLR vehicles not only offer a sustainable solution for today's transportation needs but also contribute to future-proofing the rail industry. With a focus on innovation, affordability, and sustainability, TDI is leading the way toward a cleaner, greener future for mass transit.

You can learn more about our Lightweight Thinking and innovation with our team, info@tdi.uk.com.



BOARD MEMBER THOUGHT PIECE

The Procurement Act – What does a delay mean for the Rail Sector?

On 12th September the Cabinet Office announced that the eagerly awaited Procurement Act, which had been due to come into force on 28th October, was being postponed until 24th February 2025.

Heralded by many as being legislation that will bring about real change to the way that procurements are managed with a move from 'the most economically advantageous tender' to 'the most advantageous tender', this delay will no doubt come as a surprise to many. The Act will also introduce a clear structure to the way in which any contracts are managed, including the way in which Customers pay their Suppliers which it being clear that all Suppliers are to be paid within 30 days where the relevant contract **'wholly or substantially.....contributes to the performance of a public contract.'** It is hard to see a situation where a contract relating to the building, maintenance or renovation of rolling stock or any infrastructure work will not contribute in some material way to the performance of a public contract, especially once we reach a point where Shadow GBR is trailing the track and the TOCs have been renationalised.

But all is not lost, in relation to payment processes at least. In our recent article we work through the various legislation and codes currently in place which make clear that there are already expectations on

the way in which the Supply Chain are paid under contracts. In addition, if a business meets the criteria set out in the Reporting on Payment Practices and Performance Regulations 2017 then there is a requirement to publish payment performance and an expectation that demonstrating compliance with payment terms mandated by legislation and codes will form a requirement of bidding processes as we move towards the Act.

We are undoubtedly entering into a period of significant change for the Rail Sector with restructuring and legislation inevitably requiring processes and procedures to change and adapt to the new requirements. Whilst those changes are happening, we shouldn't ignore the protections and processes which are already in place to ensure that there is a level of fairness in the way that supply chains are managed and business is done.



Michelle Craven-Faulkner
Vice-Chair Rail Forum
& Partner, Shoosmiths

PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

TECFORCE CELEBRATE 30 YEARS!

2024 has been an exciting time at Tecforce Limited as we are nearing the completion of our company rebrand to celebrate our 30th anniversary. Where did Tecforce start? Tecforce was once known as the Materials Department of what is now Alstom Transport, based in Litchurch Lane, Derby. We currently employ over 45 personnel, providing high quality welded repairs and overhaul services, with an emphasis on railway industry rolling stock.



Tecforce Ltd has been successful in gaining a number of accreditations over the years with the hard work and dedication of their team. We are a BS EN15085 accredited organisation, alongside RISAS, ISO 9001 and ISO 3834.



To help with our growth and give back to the industry, we are now offer welding seminars to inform and educate our clients in the passenger rolling stock market within the UK on the fundamentals of welding and its application.

The course is delivered in Tecforce's facility in Derby and comprises of both classroom-based training and allows participants to have a go at welding, with guidance from the team.

In August, we had a fantastic time hosting this seminar to our clients from Porterbrook, Hubner and DBESG. We also welcomed James Brewer from the Department of Trade and Business.

A massive thank you to all of those who were involved. We hope to continue to grow and give back to the industry.



Alstom implements a new leading maternity and adoption policy with full pay for up to 12 months in the UK

Alstom is proud to announce the introduction of a new sector-leading maternity and adoption policy for staff in the UK, reinforcing its commitment to supporting gender equality and the well-being of its workforce.

The enhanced policy offers employees on maternity and adoption leave full pay for up to 12 months. This policy is also viewed as a critical part of Alstom's commitment to supporting female retention and attracting new talent into the organisation and wider rail sector.



"This enhanced maternity policy is a significant step forward, and exemplifies how Alstom strives to ensure that women within the organisation are able to thrive both professionally and personally. With the maternity improvement – alongside the recent introduction of enhanced menopause support and emergency period care – it shows that Alstom is serious about being a workplace for women," said Charlotte Briers, Rolling Stock Performance Lead and Chair of Voices of Women at Alstom.

Alstom is also focused on mitigating the effects of the 'pregnancy penalty' – a recognised phenomenon where women returning from maternity leave often struggle to regain their previous career momentum. This policy serves as a pivotal step toward eliminating this issue by supporting women in achieving their full potential upon returning to work. For example, it helps ensure that women do not face financial disadvantages from taking leave of up to a year or feel pressured to return to work before they are ready.

Alstom remains dedicated to fostering a diverse and inclusive workforce and continues to take concrete

actions to reduce the gender pay gap, support family life and ensure the career advancement of women across its global operations.

In 2017, Alstom launched its biennial equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) census to identify improvement areas in the UK. From the findings, the company developed and delivered the Alstom8 training workshops to raise awareness and give practical advice on how to successfully drive inclusivity in the workplace. Over the past three years, more than 2,100 colleagues have attended a session.



Alongside this, its four 'Voices of' groups – Women, Pride+, Cultural Diversity and Disability – help to share lived experiences; challenge groupthink in its strategy and policies; have oversight of relevant key performance indicators (KPIs); and act as ambassadors.

Recent initiatives by Voices of Women have seen free period care provided in all female toilets, which will soon be expanded for all shared facilities.

Alstom also offers enhanced support for colleagues experiencing menopause, with a comprehensive Menopause Plan offered at no extra charge through the company's Bupa cover. Furthermore, employees can now reclaim the cost of a Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) Prescription Prepayment Certificate (PPC) through expenses.

The new maternity and adoption policy is open to those who have worked at Alstom for at least two years and offers full earnings for 52 weeks' maternity leave. It also offers enhanced payments to all employees who qualify for statutory maternity pay or adoption pay.



Highlights from Dave

As I write this, quite excitedly just a few hours ahead of heading to my first Innotrans event, it's a good moment to look back on the last quarter. As always its been filled with some incredibly enjoyable member visits and examples of just how much our UK supply chain has to offer and can deliver.



An ideal place to start was the invitation to Wolverton Works from Gemini Rail to see the live demo / launch of the last of the fifty seven Class 165/6 units they have fully refurbished as part of a three year programme.

Walking on board one of GWR's 166's literally looking 'like new' will undoubtedly add value to the all round passenger experience for customers and as Gemini, GWR and Angel all said, that really has been the focus.

However it was also the very close working relationship and genuine collaboration which allowed this to be so successful and on budget / plan and that was also incredibly evident. This was a fantastic example of what is possible in terms of older fleets, which as we all know certainly in the short term will be a focal area.

I have also been constantly reminded throughout the quarter just how much the people across our industry deliver and the difficult circumstances they also sadly, at times, encounter. Seeing this simple but hugely important initiative which EMR and a number of TOCS run for on board crews, was one we also all wish was not required! Also getting the opportunity to present at the Amulet Security Exec meeting was a really timely and relevant opportunity to meet more of the team and talk through some additional ways to maximise the value of membership.



I must also thank one of our strategic partners, CECA Midlands, for the opportunity to attend their annual awards dinner, with a number of mutual Ceca and Rail Forum members in attendance. Special congratulations to Kier Transportation after a double award winning evening, for environmental excellence and Client Team of the Year. And, well done to CECA midlands for a fantastic night.

Finally ahead of my trip to Innotrans, the Porterbrook Supplier Day was a great reminder of just how essential our UK supply chain is. Two things really stood out: Ben Ackroyd saying how important relationships are (and that 'a sustainable supply chain is absolutely crucial to Porterbrook') and the hugely positive message from Neil Foster that 'we really want to build relationships with the supply chain and genuinely explore the benefits and value you can bring'.



Highlights from Bob

I probably say this every time I get asked to write a few words for the quarterly newsletter but it is certainly true, meeting up with members and helping them to make the most of their Rail Forum membership is really rewarding and at the same time every day is a school day!.

The last 3 months included being in London to provide feedback on 2023 FOAK (First of a Kind) competition, hosting an inward trade mission from Turkish Railways, representing the Rail Forum at the UK Light Rail Conference in Leeds and a visit to GCRE (Global Centre of Rail Excellence) in central Wales, although it was a very wet day it didn't dampen the enthusiasm for what it will be like when completed, a truly world class rail vehicle test facility.

And of course the usual catch up with members including new to the Rail Forum, Mulraney Components based in Brierley Hill, Peter Mulraney has been involved in rail for many years and specialists in producing small turned components, who needs Chinese suppliers when we have companies like this on our doorstep!

Also great catch up meetings with Portaramp, Signature Rail and REO as well as catching up with many other members during the Porterbrook Supplier Day, our Charity Golf Day and at our AGM/Summer event at the Derbyshire Cricket Ground.



Highlights from Karen

Although things usually quieten down over the summer months as people take their well-earned holidays, the Rail Forum team have been as busy as usual. Not only have we hosted 9 events, 8 of which have been face to face, but we have also been busy planning for the future and putting the final detail together for our flagship annual conference.

July saw our Annual Charity Golf Day which welcomed 23 teams, playing for the Neil Harvey Memorial Trophy. Photos from the day can be found in the members area [here](#).

In July we also hosted our AGM, where I was delighted to contribute with a fireside chat alongside

Board member, Dave Brookes of Grinsty Rail, talking all things Events and Marketing.

Early September some of the team travel to Leeds where we hosted our Adapting to the (un)Certainty of Climate Change event. We were delighted to have Martin Frobisher, Group Safety & Engineering Director, Network Rail as our keynote speaker.

Our most recent event was the Military is Good for Rail which included a face to face meeting of the HR Leaders Group. The day saw 20 member companies hosting tables to share information about the types of job they have coming up and identifying the range of career opportunities potentially available.

Now on to finalising the arrangements for our Annual Conference and Expo. Don't forget to book your places as time is running out! Bookings close on 4 October. You can register [here](#); you will also find details on the event programme and all the full speaker line up.

Today is the deadline for sending through your Expo application forms; if you haven't yet completed this and would like to take advantage of having a free stand (Patron/Premium members) or reduced price stand for Members then don't hesitate to get in touch with me at karen@railforum.uk.



I would personally like to thank everyone for attending our events and for taking the time to fill in the post event surveys, they really do help drive what we do in the future.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to all our Event Partners as without your support we wouldn't be able to deliver our event programme.

TEAM UPDATE

Highlights from Jemma

The day after our Summer Quarterly Update was published, I was delighted to spend the day with the lovely Anna Gray of Porterbrook and Rony Roy of AtkinsRéalis, both of whom sit on the YRP East Midlands Committee. It was brilliant to engage with the public at Derby Station on the importance of staying safe on and around the railway, handing out 200 copies of our 2024 Children's Competitions, as well as the brilliant Arlo's Adventures book, Rail Safety Week mugs (sponsored by Tidycy) and EMR's Stay Safe Activity Book. Thank you to EMR for their support!



It's been a great quarter for member interactions, with lots of engagement with members at RSN, plus a meeting in Birmingham with West Midlands Rail Executive - it was a pleasure to spend some time discussing their priorities, as well as how Rail Forum might support.



A definite highlight for me was sharing an update on our policy and public affairs activities at our AGM; it was a privilege to articulate our approach to advocacy and the depth and breadth of activities that Rail Forum does to ensure members' voices are heard. The Rail Forum Summer Gathering that followed our AGM was also a joy to be a part of, the ultimate networking format of the event making it stand out from other industry social occasions, and with so



many #RFmembers and guests in attendance, it was a pleasure to meet and catch up with so many industry colleagues.

It was good to spend some time in London, visiting Adele and her new starter James at the Department for Transport, as well as catching up with Ivan from the Department for Business and Trade and meeting Seb Dance, the Deputy Mayor of London for Transport and Deputy Chair of Transport for London, to discuss key challenges and how Rail Forum and



our brilliant rail supply chain can support.

Following on from the above, it's been great to meet (either virtually or in person) with transport leads from a number of Mayoral Combined Authorities alongside Elaine. The 'Unleashing the potential of rail: An enabler of economic prosperity' document that we produced on behalf of members remains a useful resource for meetings with key stakeholders.

I also enjoyed organising and participating in some visits and roundtables with local MPs and colleagues from the Department for Business and Trade – see the political update on page 2 to learn more. Thank you to all the members who take part in these activities.

Lastly, over the last couple of months, I have enjoyed getting 'out and about' with other members of the team, from a trip to Dublin to see Irish Rail with the whole team, which also included some time dedicated to refining our strategy for the coming months ahead, to a series of visits to organisations that have research and testing facilities and can support members with getting innovation onto the railway (Great Central Railway and Barrow Hill Roundhouse).

MTMS is on duty as it helps rail industry to recruit from the military



He may not have served his country for as long as many of those he spoke to on the day, but Ed Wakeford certainly knew what was going through their minds of the armed forces leavers at the recent Rail Forum's Military is Good for Rail event.

Ed, who is a project manager at MTMS, is a former soldier and joined our managing director Matt Forst, at the event, which was held to showcase the range of jobs available in the rail industry for people who have recently left, or are planning to leave, the UK's armed forces.

Ed entered the military after leaving university and his time in uniform lasted five years. He joined MTMS last year and has most recently been overseeing the building of two 280m-long gantries on behalf of Hitachi Rail at its Craigentinny depot in Edinburgh.

He said: "I really enjoyed taking part in the show and talking to the service personnel, giving them advice and telling them about the industry.

"My background is different to those of them who'd joined up straight from school, but I understand the mindset of people who work in the military and I was able to explain why the rail industry is a good next step for them.

"Like being in the forces, it is often seen as a vocation and it relies on people who are practical and adaptable, which are two qualities that are hallmarks of people who serve in the military."

MTMS's attendance at the show came just two weeks after the company picked up the gold award in the Government's Employer Defence Recognition Scheme, which recognises companies which make a special effort to support the country's military and observe the Armed Forces Covenant.

It has taken MTMS a number of years to gain its gold status, during which time it has put in place a series of initiatives including pledging to actively recruit ex-service personnel, offering an extra 15 days paid leave for employees who also serve as reservists and offering a free counselling service to ex-military staff.

It has also donated many hundreds of pounds to local cadet groups, encompassing army, sea and air cadets.

Malcolm Prentice, group chairman of MTMS, said: "While we recruit former military personnel and give our full support to any reservists or their families who work for us, it's often the work we undertake with the cadet forces that give me the most pleasure.

"None of the cadet groups receive funding from the military, yet they put many young men and women on the path to serving in the forces and protecting their country one day.

"Even those who don't join the military learn life skills including discipline and teamwork, which are just the kind of assets that companies need when they are looking to recruit young talent."

Anyone who is from the military and would like to find out more about working at MTMS should contact jobs@mtms.co.uk



Picture shows: Ed Wakeford, a former soldier and now project manager at MTMS, right with the firm's managing director, Matt Forst, at the Rail Forum's recent Military is Good for Rail event.



From left, Cherril Prentice, a director at MTMS, Malcolm Prentice, the firm's group chairman, operations director Peter Stretton, managing director Matt Forst, Lt Col David Dawber and MTMS's financial director Colin Peacock, at an event held last year to confirm MTMS's commitment to the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme.

PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

Amey secures further contract wins on the Transpennine Route Upgrade

Amey

Amey has successfully won further work on the Transpennine Route Upgrade West Alliance (TRUWest) project, securing £800m of work from the £2bn contract award. In collaboration with Arup, BAM, and Network Rail, Amey will deliver key upgrades between Huddersfield and Leeds, improving journeys through more frequent, reliable, and greener travel. The project includes upgrades to six stations, the construction of nine bridges and a viaduct, as well as the realignment and electrification of tracks to enable faster and more frequent electric train journeys.

Additionally, this will also include signalling work across 28 miles of route which will help to improve reliability and reduce delays. An increase in rail tracks from two to four between Huddersfield and Ravensthorpe will also help to reduce journey times and congestion. Amey's experience in delivering complex and challenging projects is providing

innovative and sustainable solutions to enable communities and future generations to thrive.

Andy Milner, CEO at Amey, said:

"This is fantastic news for Amey and our Alliance partners, recognising the positive impact our exceptional expertise and collaboration has delivered since 2017. We have delivered key outputs, such as Manchester to Stalybridge electrification, which has recently seen the first electric passenger trains; provided innovative solutions, such as the new Ravensthorpe Viaduct; as well as environmental and sustainable commitments to help achieve Network Rail's net zero carbon targets. We're looking forward to the next five years, working together on the Alliance to help shape and enhance the future of rail travel across the North."

PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

Story Contracting is a privately-owned, award-winning infrastructure company with a strong national reputation for excellence.

Operating from regional offices across England and Scotland, Story is highly regarded for our expertise in rail, plant, construction, geotechnical and training solutions.

Recently, we have secured several multimillion-pound framework contracts with clients including Network Rail, Northumbrian Water, and Amey.

Our in-house geotechnical services team, Story Geotech, has also seen significant growth, including the recent appointment of Mark Lindahl as Operations Director. Under his leadership, the department has strengthened the management team and seen the further develop of capabilities.

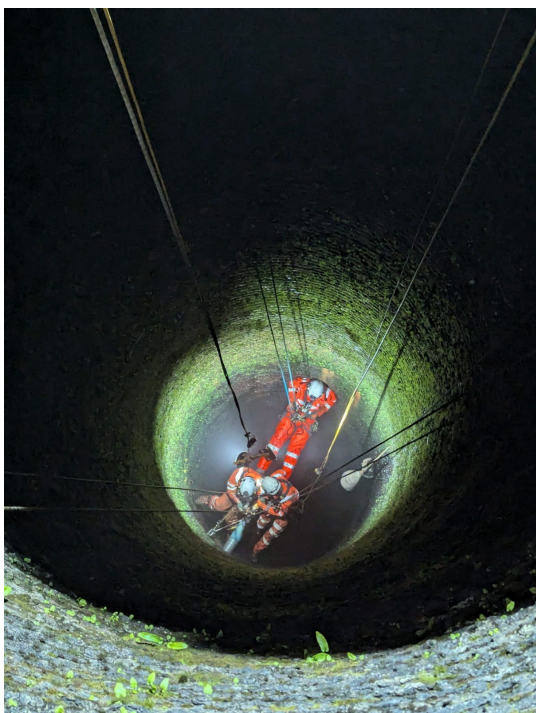
Investments in equipment, including a Rotary Percussive Rig, Hilti Coring System, Ripamonte Skid Rig, Modular Window Sample Rig, and Plate Testing Set, have bolstered our technical capabilities.

In addition, the team has undergone training, including IRATA certification for rope access and NRSWA qualifications for rail and highway interface work. Upskilling in safety-critical duties is making the team more self-sufficient, reducing client costs.

The team have also undertaken some challenging projects this year, but one standout scheme involved reinforcing a failing embankment at the River Garry in Scotland. Utilising experience and expertise in the industry, the team are able to provide logistical and access solutions on the most complex of projects, as displayed at River Garry. With one more period of blockades remaining for the project, the team are already preparing for the next soil nailing scheme.

For more information or to discuss future opportunities please contact mark.lindahl@storycontracting.com.

STORY



BOARD MEMBER THOUGHT PIECE

It's been a few months since my last update (and a lot has happened!), so I thought it's time for an update on rail reform progress!

The post-election period definitely lived up to the new Secretary of State's mantra to 'move fast and fix things'. Already, the Public Ownership Bill has completed its passage through the House of Commons and the second bill announced in the King's Speech, the Railway Bill (delivering structural reform), is committed to being introduced in the first term. This was swiftly followed on 3rd September with the Secretary of State's commissioning of Shadow GBR (SGBR).

For clarity, SGBR is not itself a new organisation: it's about bringing together the combined clout of the Operator of Last Resort, Network Rail, and Department for Transport Rail Services Group to drive a more collaborative and laser-focused approach to overcoming the railway's challenges.

To this end, the Secretary of State has tasked the leaders of the three organisations to put forward a delivery plan in mid-October addressing her priorities to making improvements to service performance, increasing financial sustainability, unlocking barriers in areas like fares reform and designing end-state GBR. Responsibilities and accountabilities of the individual organisations will remain the same.

SGBR is an important and positive step to creating a simpler, better railway for our customers and GBRTT has a lot of experience working with the industry to help unlock some early benefits. As such, we are lending our collective expertise to SGBR. Many of you will have had contact with our Commercial Partnerships team, and I want to reassure you that their work continues as normal.

Finally, I'm pleased to report that our presence in Derby has been increasing. More key industry wide meetings are being held there and our teams are regularly basing themselves from John Ellis House. Our commitment to Derby will only strengthen as we progress!



Paul Harwood,
GBRTT

MEMBER NEWS

Don't forget as part of your membership you can share your news for inclusion on our website and in our newsletters. Please send your stories and images to news@railforum.uk

EVENTS

Events are a great way to maximise your membership so why not join us at any of our upcoming online or face to face events. If you have ideas for future events, improvements or any other feedback or even an event or meeting space that we could use for a future event, please do get in touch at events@railforum.uk

EVENT PARTNERSHIP

For details on partnership options available on a number of our events please contact events@railforum.uk

PATRON/PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

If you're a Patron or Premium member, you can share your stories in future Quarterly Updates.

Contact Karen at karen@railforum.uk for more information.

The deadline for the **Winter** issue is
Monday 9th December 2024.

Celebrating Growth in Our Reach

We are absolutely delighted to have more than **12,500** followers on LinkedIn, as well as a consistent average readership of our newsletters this last quarter at an amazing **43.7%**!

Since the last Quarterly Update, we have continued to grow in our Marketing and Communications support, including both our weekly newsletters which have seen **272** of your news stories as well as a number of new event launches.

In terms of growth on our social platforms we have increased our LinkedIn following by **529** and our content across LinkedIn alone has had around **92K** impressions in the past 90 days!



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENGAGEMENT
WITH OUR SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS
AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**

PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

Ibstock invests in EPD verification for Anderlite Troughing

UK manufactured precast concrete cable troughing from Ibstock is now available with a third party verified Environmental Product Declaration or EPD*, as part of our planned roll out of EPDs across our product portfolio throughout 2024.

This EPD confirms that Ibstock has one of the lowest carbon Concrete Cable Troughs available on the market and provides the data that will enable the rail sector to make more informed choices about the products it specifies.

Emily Landsborough, Ibstock's Head of ESG, commented: "Our research suggests that the most popular of the size variants within our range have significantly lower embodied carbon than competitor and imported products. Our best-selling Concrete Cable Trough (C/1/9) has 22% less embodied carbon than equivalent products of a similar size based on A1-A3 Global Warming Potential (GWP) figure in comparable EPDs.

"Last year, we invested significantly in the resources and the software needed to provide the full life cycle analysis necessary for Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for the products we manufacture. The EPD data is fully transparent and available to the sector to use and analyse."

Ibstock Commercial Director Shaun Forrester said:



Ibstock
At the heart of building

"Rail operators are working towards increasingly binding carbon reduction targets, so the sustainable credentials of the products they specify is key. One of the most assured metrics for determining a product's sustainability is via an EPD and we will be releasing more EPDs for Rail and Infrastructure over the coming months.

"This news provides the rail sector with further confidence in our commitment to sustainability and, as a business, we strive to achieve further reductions in embodied carbon within our products as part of Ibstock's ESG 2030 Strategy."



*An EPD is generated based on data through a product Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), which is subject to third party verification via peer-reviewed Product Category Rules (PCR) document. Once obtained, an EPD is usually valid for five years.

PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

Last April, Structural Engineer Dr Zeina AL-Nabulsi, Ph.D from Rendel and Carbon Engineer Mathis Kominiarz, from Actierra presented a joint paper titled "Life-cycle Analysis of the Colne Valley Viaduct & Assessment of Optimised Solutions" at the IABSE - International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering in Manchester. Rendel and Actierra are subsidiaries of the Ingerop Group. The Colne Valley Viaduct (CVV) is a key asset for the HS2 Phase One project, being delivered by Align consortium (Bouygues Travaux Publics, Sir Robert McAlpine and Volker Fitzpatrick) and will become the UK's longest railway viaduct. Ingerop-Rendel is among the design partners for Align.

The paper examined the life cycle assessment of one of the CVV deck segments, with a specific focus on the carbon footprint of the deck superstructure. By analysing alternative materials and deck types, the study suggests that there are high carbon emission elements in the deck, however the overall carbon savings Align has generated through optimising the design of the viaduct are very significant, even if opportunities for further savings have been identified for future projects.

The work presented in this paper is part of Ingerop's wider effort to reduce carbon emissions. As a major contributor to the engineering consultancy sector,

Ingerop is responsible for designing and delivering resilient projects that combat climate change. This is achieved through



sustainable design by implementing carbon management. Ingerop's expertise in carbon management is supported by InfraCost™, a carbon tool that allows experts to proactively analyse, decide, and monitor the carbon impact of infrastructure projects.



Photo: Zeina Al-Nabulsi on the left and Mathis Kominiarz on the right, taken at the IABSE Conference in Manchester, April 2024

PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

An exciting new era for rail industry skills

Derby College Group (DCG) is set to build on its longstanding partnerships with rail employers – with the launch of a dynamic new Institute of Technology dedicated to fostering a workforce fit for the future.

The East Midlands Institute of Technology (EMIoT) will deliver higher level training and advanced qualifications aimed at boosting the region's economy, addressing skills gaps and promoting clean growth.



DCG is one of three hub sites for this forward-thinking initiative, an alliance which also involves

major employers, the University of Derby, Loughborough College and Loughborough University.

Facilities at the College's flagship Roundhouse Campus have been expanded in a £4.3m project to create an impressive high-tech setting for engineering, digital, construction and leadership training. State-of-the-art classrooms and collaborative workspaces provide students with immersive learning experiences, while cutting-edge technology allows teaching to be carried out anywhere worldwide, enabling businesses to upskill

their workforce with maximum flexibility.

DCG courses run under the auspices of the new Institute range from T Levels and Extended Diplomas to HNCs, Higher Technical Qualifications and Honours Degrees in STEM subjects. Short courses will also enable individuals to reskill and gain micro-credentials without committing to a full study programme.

The College's long-established Rail Employment and Skills Board, led by industry representatives, has already undertaken far-reaching initiatives including customised training programmes, degree apprenticeships and showcase events such as Insight into Rail. Now, the opening of the EMIoT takes these collaborations between education and the rail industry to the next level.



Find out more: www.derby-college.ac.uk/east-midlands-institute of technology

PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

Discover the latest rail industry trends with **HARTING**

HARTING and their engineering partners are running a series of Railway Web-Seminars to introduce system concepts for the most important trends in the railway industry.

Across three sessions they will introduce their competence centre and manufacturing capabilities for rail and show new solutions for achieving weight reduction, efficient power distribution and future-proofed data transmission.

They'll also discuss digital data and how the new Han® High Power Configurator can help speed up your product development processes.

You only need to register once to gain access to all the sessions. To learn more and register for this informative series, please click [here](#).

HARTING Railway Web-Seminar Series 2024

PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

With a string of rail operators undergoing refurbishment projects, EMR, a global leader in sustainable materials, is committed to developing a circular supply chain for the rail industry.

We aim to recycle, reuse, and repurpose end-of-life carriages and components to produce next-generation trains, reducing waste and contributing to a more sustainable future.

Drawing on decades of experience, EMR is working

with the entire rail supply chain, from fleet operators to manufacturers, delivering bespoke solutions.

Our extensive network of sites, along with rail-linked yards and heavy-duty weighing facilities, ensures we can efficiently manage large-scale projects. This allows us to handle rolling stock, infrastructure, and rail components from various suppliers, including ROSCOs and major rail operators, in a responsible and streamlined manner.

Through our tailored services, we help clients achieve significant CO₂ savings, ensuring compliance with environmental regulations and protecting the planet for future generations. Our transparent and accountable approach ensures that every stage of the process is handled responsibly and safely, offering full "cradle to grave" consultancy to manage the lifecycle of materials.

By embracing a circular economy, EMR adds value beyond recycling, helping to shape a more sustainable rail industry.



Rail Forum

2024

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This Year's Theme:

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#RFevent

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OCTOBER 15TH

2024



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www.railforum.uk/events

PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

Can valuable ideas for change come from unusual quarters?

Change is understandably often viewed as a threat. But part of navigating change successfully is the knack of innovation - an ability to flip change from a threat to an opportunity. One technique to achieve this is to borrow ideas, often from seemingly unrelated fields, and apply them in your own organisation in a new way which unlocks value.



We've looked outside of rail to find three such ideas.

AI culture - Yes it's ubiquitous, but AI is here to stay. Rather than focus on the tech, the most successful

organisations are creating a *culture* where AI is the norm. They give their people time and resources to learn and practise AI. One well known bank mandates senior leaders to use AI once a day - culture comes from the top.

New models of buying - Reforming rail ticketing is hard, but looking at other industries for new modes of consumption could inspire significant evolutions. Consumers increasingly want to share and to flexibly buy products - think of Netflix or Apple family accounts, or 'pay-as-you-eat' points based

subscription services like [Whirli](#) or [classpass](#). Season tickets are largely non-transferrable and rail cards without a ticket don't get you anywhere - could there be room for a flexible pass shared by a family unit?



Integrated transport - Companies are already delivering integrated transport models that make it easy for passengers to manage their end-to-end journey - think Uber selling train tickets. Your arrival train station is rarely, if ever, the actual destination you want to get to. The rail sector can grow in this space to offer the complete journey - whether through expanding parking spaces for e-bikes or further partnerships with 'last-mile' personal transport means. Why let the ride-sharing companies have all the fun?



As an award-winning, independent management consulting firm, Oaklin works with business leaders to connect strategy with execution, turn ideas into action, and lead delivery. Having shaped strategies and delivered solutions for clients in every sector for over 15 years, Oaklin is adept at taking inspiring ideas from unusual quarters and turning them into sustainable, enduring change.

PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

Market-leading cable management and protection manufacturer, Atkore, understands the technically demanding challenges posed by the rail sector. Working with Crossrail to supply London's Elizabeth Line project, is a key example of how the manufacturer has been able to improve procurement efficiency and specify quality product.

- **Project:** Elizabeth Line
- **Location:** London
- **Contractor:** Crossrail
- **Products Supplied:** Atkore Defender™ Cable Management & Curved Channel Cantilever Arrangements.

About

Previously known as Crossrail, the Elizabeth Line spans over 100 kilometers, connecting Reading and Heathrow in the west with Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the east of London. Now fully operational, the line can handle up to 200 million passengers



annually, for faster and more efficient travel.



Challenge

As the project was mostly underground, the cable management systems and materials specified needed to withstand harsh environmental conditions, including moisture, vibration, and potential chemical exposure. Additionally, the system specified had to be as swift and efficient as possible, to meet tight schedules and underground tunnel spatial constraints.

Solution

To solve the potential problem of harsh environmental conditions, Atkore Defender™ finish was applied, significantly extending the cable management systems lifespan in comparison to standard Hot-Dip Galvanised products. Ultimately, ensuring infrastructure remains in optimal condition, reducing maintenance and downtime.

Atkore also supplied over 35,000 pre-engineered curved channel cantilever arrangements, specifically designed to facilitate faster installation, whilst Flexicon product was used for the platform edge screens. Overall, Atkore's solutions allowed smooth project progression to meet critical deadlines.

RAIL FORUM EVENTS

Since the last quarterly update we have held 9 events. 8 x face to face and 1 online.

The events included an innovation workshop, export briefings, infrastructure (climate), careers, golf day and our AGM and Summer Gathering.

Future Events

We are now looking forward to our Annual Conference on 15 October and arrangements are well underway. Check out the webpage [here](#) for details on the speakers and programme.

Looking ahead we have a number of great events coming up. To check these out click on the links in the table opposite or open the events programme below.

Finance Leaders Group	30 Sep	Online
Member Hosted Event -Friction Management	9 Oct	LB Foster, Sheffield
Annual Conference	15 Oct	Doncaster
HR Leaders Group meeting	6 Nov	Online
Innovating Rail Through International Collaboration	13 Nov	Online
Vehicle Maintenance - Today, Tomorrow and Beyond	14 Nov	NTAR, Northampton
Christmas Lunch	6 Dec	Derby
InfraTalk	23 Jan	Online
IMechE Lunch - Rail Forum Hosted Tables	28 Feb	London

Calendar of Events 2024/2025

Rail Forum

May 2024	Supported by	June 2024	Supported by	July 2024	Supported by
9 Preparing for the Procurement Act - Online	SHCOSMITHS	4 Member Hosted Networking event (Export Safety & Technology)	CLV	1 Innotrains Workshop	NTAR
15 TOCTalk - Derby	ALSTOM	10 Finance Leaders Group - Online	ALSTOM	2 Innovation Workshop with UoD - Derby	ALSTOM
		12 Member Hosted Networking event (Trackside Safety)	RSS	11 Turkish Rail Market Briefing	ALSTOM
		12 HR Leaders Group - Online	NELSONS	18 Charity Golf Day Horsley, Derbyshire	ALSTOM
		24 Rail Safety Week Conference - Manchester	U-Certify	23 Annual General Meeting Derbyshire Cricket Club	ALSTOM
		26/27 Africa briefing - online		23 Summer Gathering Derbyshire Cricket Club	ALSTOM
August 2024	Supported by	September 2024	Supported by	October 2024	Supported by
		5 Adapting to the (un)Certainty of Climate Change - Leeds	ALSTOM	9 Member Hosted Networking event - Friction Management	LB Foster
		9 Midlands Track 2024: Virtual Meet the Buyer	ALSTOM	15 Annual Conference - Doncaster	ALSTOM
		11 Military is Good for Rail - Derby			
		11 HR Leaders Group - Derby			
		30 Finance Leaders Group - online			

Our 2024/2025 Patrons

ALSTOM AtkinsRéalis Fenix MTMS porterbrook resonate Wabtec XRAIL

Click to expand

We would like to say a huge thank you to all our event partners who have agreed a partnership package with us during this membership year so far. Your support is valuable, without it we would not be able to deliver our event programme.

Event Partners 2024-2025



Interested in becoming an Event Partner?

Opportunities are available to become an Event Partner at the majority of our events.

In-person events are becoming more and more popular and we are needing to move to bigger venues etc, we are therefore looking for Event Partners to help support these rising costs.

If you would like to partner with us at one of our future events then please speak to [Karen](#).



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THANK YOU TO OUR PATRONS!

Our Patrons recognise the importance of the rail supply chain and their support enables us to do more than we would otherwise be able to do, not just for them, but for all our members.

Our Esteemed
#RFPatrons

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RAIL SYSTEMS

MTMS
Managed Transport Maintenance Solutions

porterbrook

resonate

Wabtec
CORPORATION

XRAIL

PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

The first ever UK built Rail Grinder



Loram UK is proud to introduce the first **ever** UK built Rail Grinder, RGX-02.

Loram UK are excited to be showcasing RGX-02 at Innotrans in Berlin this month. Loram UK celebrated its 70-year anniversary a few weeks ago, and what a way to celebrate with the launch of RGX-02.



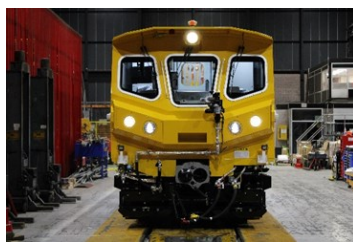
Loram's RGX series is a compact rail grinding solution designed for both production and specialty rail grinding to meet the demands of the commuter and transit railways. The compact design of the RGX allows it to navigate a wide variety of network requirements globally, such as tight curve radius, clearance diagrams and light axle loads, while addressing a variety of grinding conditions. The RGX leverages state of the art technology and highly productive 22,4kW (30 hp) grind motors for efficient metal removal, reduced grind time, and optimised maintenance cost.



RGX-02 departing Loram UK facility in Derby to head to Innotrans

RGX includes Loram's patented Rail Pro® grind management software systems. RGX is a configurable platform with 13 different consist configurations ranging from 10 to 40 stones. Each grind car contains its own engine, traction, water tank, hydraulics and other features giving redundancy in operation while also meeting the latest emission requirements around the world.'

Well Done to the RGX Team!



PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

As we reflect on another exciting quarter at Aura Brand Solutions, we are proud to highlight some key projects showcasing innovation and sustainability in the rail industry.

Our recent collaboration with TransPennine Express saw us wrap a Nova 1 train in a bold, eye-catching design for the UK's first trial of replacing a diesel engine with a battery on an intercity train. This pioneering project, carried out at Hitachi Rail's Newton Aycliffe depot, involved stripping the old livery and transforming the drive cars with a fresh

'fully charged' wrap. This initiative, in partnership with Angel Trains, Turntide Technologies, and Hitachi Rail, is set to reduce emissions and fuel costs by up to 30%, marking a significant step towards a greener future for rail travel.



We were recently honoured to celebrate Drax Group's 50th anniversary by wrapping a biomass hopper wagon in showstopping gold livery. This project was a collaboration with WH Davis and Revolution Trains. We also had the pleasure of collaborating on the model version which was available for purchase with proceeds supporting Martin House Children's Hospice.

Our marketing team has been busier than ever, providing branded promotional items from pens and mugs to marketing materials and event branding for a variety of rail clients including Tecforce, Loram, Yellow Rail, Grinsty Rail, and more.

Over the next few months, we'll be focusing on anti-graffiti and solar window film projects to reduce energy usage for operators and help maintain comfortable internal environments for rail passengers.



PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

Spencer Group begins work to deliver £10m wheel lathe facility

Rail infrastructure specialist Spencer Group has begun a £10m project to deliver a new wheel lathe facility for train operator Greater Anglia.

The works involve the design and build of a new Wheel Lathe Facility at Clacton Rail Depot in Essex, which will service Greater Anglia's fleet, ranging from three-car trains through to 12-car units.

The 5,000 sq m (54,000 sq ft) development will be located on land once occupied by the old Clacton Steam Shed and the unused approach road area from the existing Shunting Spur. Enabling works have been carried out on site by specialist rail and civils teams, who are now preparing to begin construction of the facility, which is expected to be complete by May 2025.



Spencer Group will design and construct the new Facility, as well as deliver modifications to track, depot protection, locally operated points system, signalling and overhead line equipment. The team will also deliver a new welfare facility for maintenance staff, including utility services and connections, as well as a drivers' walkway and lighting facilities for

preparation activities.

The works at Clacton Rail Depot will add to Spencer Group's extensive track record of delivering complex rail projects.

Spencer Group understands the needs of its rail sector clients and its teams are acknowledged for their expertise in delivering solutions that keep depots running smoothly throughout the duration of a project.

SPENCER

British Engineering



Rail Forum

InfraTalk

Fast Talking For Infrastructure

This Year's Theme:
Project Affordability

Keynote Speaker

Sam Turner

CFO, East West Rail Company



- ✓ Find new opportunities
- ✓ Meet collaboration partners
- ✓ Explore new innovations
- ✓ Engage with supply chain
- ✓ Uncover solutions
- ✓ Gain industry intelligence

Join the
conversation

**JANUARY
23RD**

2025

EVENT PARTNER



**BOOK
NOW**



For more information about this
upcoming event, please visit:

www.railforum.uk/events

NEW MEMBER PROFILES

Here is a list of new member profiles. If you wish to get in touch with the representatives listed below please contact the Rail Forum team.

 <p>BOSCH Invented for life</p>	<p>A supplier of video security technology to the rail industry for over 20 years, our track record as a trusted partner is one of delivering value, through high reliability, extremely resilient products and systems to protect customers, staff and assets alike. Now with our state-of-the-art, secure AI based solutions, we are keen to use the opportunities to connect with all rail stakeholders so we can seek to understand their challenges and help to solve them.</p> <p>Chris Lambert, Business Development Manager – Transport</p>	
	<p>Circet, a leading expert in fixed and wireless telecom networks, builds, supports and operates critical digital infrastructure for both the telecommunications and energy sectors, providing Project Management services, from inception to completion.</p> <p>Mark Ingham, Head of Sales</p>	
	<p>Clarus Networks' Starlink-powered solutions provide unparalleled connectivity for rail operators. Our unique offering ensures high-speed, reliable communication, transforming rail operations even in the most remote and challenging locations.</p> <p>Mike Butler, Director Rail & Innovation</p>	
	<p>COMET provides rail operators and service companies with data-driven tools for incident management, root cause analysis, AI data analytics tools and supply chain assurance, enhancing safety, operational efficiency, and consistency across all operations.</p> <p>Euan Henderson, Business Development Manager, COMET</p>	
	<p>Spencer Group bring passenger, freight, and rail together. We have 30 years' experience delivering multidisciplinary design and construction projects on the operational railway, driving innovation and excellence for our clients.</p> <p>Caitlin Craven - Business Manager</p>	

There are also the following new members:



Thank you to all the members who have contributed to this issue of our Quarterly Newsletter.

We look forward to meeting you at a future members meeting or at one of our upcoming events.

Your Rail Forum Team

