

Summer 2024 Update

Informing our rail community

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR, WILL ROGERS



Firstly, a massive thank you to all those members who have renewed their membership for 2024/25; thank you for continuing to put your trust in us. Secondly, welcome to new members joining us at the start of this new membership year; please do get involved in our various activities and events to maximise your membership.

I'm pleased to confirm the appointment of Laura May as Engagement Manager, replacing Ben who left us at the end of April. Laura knows the Rail Forum very well having worked for a member for a number of years; she's also been a Board Director since 2018. Laura will be joining us on 26 August. Until then David Kierton is covering the role as Interim Engagement Manager. Well known to many of you David brings his wealth of experience to the role and will be keeping in touch with Ben's previous accounts over this next few months.



I am also pleased to confirm the appointment of Will Broad who will join us at the end of July to focus on our digital, web and social media activities.



Since the last update the Prime Minister has surprised us all by calling a General Election for 4th July. We launched our General Election 'manifesto' in early June setting out just 5 key policy areas that we believe would make a big difference to our industry. Once the election results are known we will of course be engaging with the major figures as the new Government takes shape.

I am personally looking forward to our July events schedule and specifically the AGM and Summer Gathering. Whilst the AGM will cover 'formal business' it will follow a similar format to last year with some VIP guests and an update on activities from the team. Our first Summer Gathering event has exceeded all expectations and is a total sell out! We are planning a relaxed but professional high quality networking event and we all have fingers crossed for good weather. I hope to see many of you at one or other of the events.

Finally, I would like to say huge congratulations to Elaine Clark for receiving an OBE in the King's Birthday Honours list for Services to the Rail Supply Industry.



NEW MEMBERS!

We are delighted to welcome 17 new members who have recently joined us, these are listed below. More information about each of them can be found on page 28 and 29.

Connected Places Catapult, Dellner Glass Solutions, Elite Precast, Enspered, Howmet, LECM, Oaklin, Paragon, Pendyne, Rail Fleet Services, Rail Spares, REO, Structural Investigation Services, Synectics, Treadmaster (Tiflex), UK Rail Advisory and Winslow Adaptics.

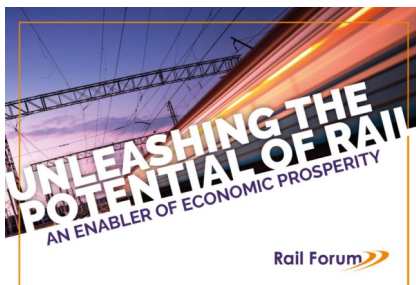
The past three months have gone in a flash, and there's lots to update our members on from an industry and political engagement perspective.

Unleashing the potential of rail

Hopefully you will have picked up on the launch of [our General Election policy document](#) which outlines five key policy changes that would drive significant benefits for customers, taxpayers and the rail supply chain.

1. Development and implementation of a vision for the railway that is underpinned by a long-term investment strategy
2. Commitment to a suite of integrated national and local plans that support local and devolved authorities to establish urban and intermodal priorities whilst maintaining a whole network perspective
3. Rapidly progressing key elements of the rail reform agenda, in particular establishment of Great British Railways
4. Implementation of digital technologies
5. Procurement strategies, facilitated by the new Procurement Act, that provide fairer opportunities for SMEs, outcome focused results and greater social value

Rail Forum wants to see rail positioned at the heart of the public transport and freight system, as an economic enabler helping to drive UK growth and supporting delivery of our net zero commitments. Our message to the next government is simple, work with us to unleash the potential of rail.



Download the document to see the subsequent benefits and outcomes of implementing the five key policy changes.

Please support this on social media

- Engage with our [launch post](#)
- Comment with your views
- Share and reinforce your support

(Some great examples by [Anturas](#), [Danny from Oaklin](#) and [John from Winslow Adaptics](#), amongst others!)

It is incredibly important that we collectively support a strong future for rail, particularly with the General Election happening next week!

Compilation of manifesto rail 'promises'

We have compiled the rail focus of each major political party as outlined in their Manifestos into one document to serve as a handy reference point for members.



The General Election is on **Thursday 4th July**, so please do make use of this resource — [download the document from the members area here](#).

Engaging with the 'Metro' Mayors

In May, we wrote to each of the Combined Authority Mayors, congratulating them on their election or re-election, introducing Rail Forum and emphasising the important role that the rail supply chain can and will play in achieving their transport and wider priorities. We will keep up our engagement with the Mayors and ensure that rail is firmly on the radar.

Welcome news for the Supply Chain

We're delighted that #RFmember [Alstom has signed a contract for 10 Avenra trains for the Elizabeth Line in London](#), with associated maintenance until 2046. This confirmed workload for Derby Litchurch Lane is a positive outcome for the future of the facility and associated workforce, and significantly for the rail supply chain whose resilience is crucial to supporting a thriving railway system.

The UK needs an ambitious vision for the industry, underpinned by a long-term investment strategy and we continue to press for a smooth pipeline of rolling stock opportunities for all the OEMs to bid for, along with fairer opportunities for SME's which focus on results and provide greater social value for the UK.

BBC Radio 4 pm

On 29 May, ahead of the positive Alstom news, Elaine Clark was interviewed by Evan Davies of BBC Radio 4 PM. Elaine shared how the need for change is recognised across the industry with a lot of support for the concept of GBR by the rail sector and also the Conservative and Labour parties. Elaine stated the need for a vision for the railway leading to a pipeline of work; the railway needs to be seen as an enabler of economic activity. Elaine commented on the impact that the Alstom crisis could have on the rail supply chain if a solution was not agreed and implemented, plus views on HS2 being paired back.



INDUSTRY & POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

Draft Rail Reform Bill

Immediately prior to Easter, we submitted our response to the pre-legislative scrutiny questions posed by the Transport Select Committee (TSC). Our response can be found in the [Members' Area](#).

The announcement of a General Election in July and the Dissolution of Parliament on 30 May ended the work of the TSC in that Parliament, meaning that the Committee was not able to bring its scrutiny of the draft Bill to a conclusion with a report and recommendations. The written evidence accepted by the Committee and the transcripts of the oral evidence heard during the inquiry remain available on their [website](#). It's open to a new Committee in the next Parliament to take up this strand of work again. A short [report](#) was published on 28th May containing some observations from the pre-legislative scrutiny.

Activities from pre-prorogue of Parliament

Hosting the Shadow Rail Minister

Early April, we were delighted to host Shadow Rail Minister Stephen Morgan MP. At Gemini Rail Services in Wolverton with Angel Trains, Stephen learned about the refurbishment market and the need for a balance between 'new' and 'mid-life' refresh. We looked at whole-life value, embedded carbon, the benefits of private sector investment, and both the opportunities and challenges for the rail supply chain. Next, we visited East West Railway Company in Milton Keynes, where Stephen received a good insight into the purpose and strategic case for new railway. We explored the value of the railway – not as the end goal but as an enabler – connecting people, places, work opportunities and more.



Rail Forum Board: Meeting for members re rolling stock supply chain issues

Mid April, we hosted a Board call with members to provide the opportunity for a discussion around the very significant challenges being faced by the rolling stock supply chain. We provided a brief update on our understanding of market/OEM situation, did our best to answer questions and took on board further valuable feedback from members.

Legal and Contractual Update

We hosted a short webinar with Shoosmiths mid-April to explain what Network Rail's move to NEC4 contract terms means for suppliers. The recording can be accessed on the [Members Area](#).

Department for Business and Trade (DBT) visits

Over 17-19 April, we hosted the new international rail team from DBT for visits and roundtables across Doncaster, Burton-on-Trent and Derby. Key points from the various discussions were:

- The importance of a strong UK market to support export opportunities
- Understanding what support is on offer / available
- Potential opportunities for a more collaborative approach, drawing a number of companies together to provide a wider 'UK' solution



Later in April, we hosted Neil Hodgson, the new Deputy Director in DBT.

Neil's role is wider than just rail, he also covers Energy Intensive Industries. Neil met with the Board and a few members to hear about the challenges of lack of pipeline, innovation and more.

We are confident that he went away with a much better appreciation of the frustrations that members face and a genuine desire to make a difference.



Parliamentary Reception

On 22 April, we hosted our 14th Parliamentary Reception with some 200 guests, Peers and MPs in attendance. The event proved hugely popular as always with some excellent networking opportunities as well as hearing from the current Rail and Shadow Rail Ministers.

Our final thanks to Pauline Latham OBE MP who has hosted all of our receptions; Pauline is retiring at the General Election.



Preparing for the Procurement Act

In early May we hosted a special briefing with Shoosmiths to explain some of the changes that the new Procurement Act will herald. The Act represents a major update to public procurement following the UK's exit from the EU.

Many members will be affected by this legislation as requirements flow down through tiers of suppliers; it's not just applicable to those that contract direct to Network Rail or HS2. Depending on the nature of the contract the public procurement rules can also apply to those in the rolling stock arena so we would encourage all members to ensure you are up to date with the changes. Watch the webinar [here](#) and find a helpful FAQ sheet too!

Exports roundtable with Shadow Exports Minister

Mid May, we were delighted to host a roundtable on exports with Shadow Exports Minister Tan Dhesi MP where we were joined by a number of exporting and 'aspiring to export' members. Topics discussed included DBT support to UK companies, movement of goods and people in the EU post Brexit, benefits of UKEF involvement, what has driven success for companies, and policies that could drive growth opportunities. A summary of notes and asks following the very useful session can be read on the [Members' Area](#).



Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

On 1 May we shared a helpful 'CBAM explainer' within our Advocacy Update, this can be read [here](#).

In June, Rail Forum submitted our response to HMT and HMRC's consultation on the UK Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). To be introduced in January 2027 CBAM will initially require reporting of embedded carbon content in certain imported materials such as steel, aluminium, concrete and glass. The response can be read on the [Members' Area](#), along with the CBAM Commodity Codes.

Delivering Midlands Main Line Electrification - letter to SoS

Rail Forum signed a letter to the Secretary of State in support of the full electrification of the Midlands Main Line; urging that he presses ahead with the necessary investment to progress delivery at pace with no pause or delay.

Fellow signatories included:

- Claire Ward, East Midlands Mayor
- Oliver Coppard, South Yorkshire Mayor
- Sir John Peace, Chairman of Midlands Connect
- Lord Patrick McLoughlin, Chairman of Transport for the North
- Sir Peter Soulsby, Chair of Transport for the East Midlands
- Scott Knowles DL, CEO of East Midlands Chamber
- Louisa Harrison-Walker, CEO of Sheffield Chamber of Commerce & Industry

New faces at DfT

DfT has been undergoing a restructuring to set themselves up ready for the future and the emergence of GBR post the General Election.



Department
for Transport

Elaine had an informative introductory meeting with Alex Hynes the new Director General, Rail Services.

Elaine also met with the new Director, Rail Strategy & Analysis at DfT following the move of Dan Moore to pastures new.

Network Rail Product Approvals Supplier Forum

In January, Network Rail established a Product Approvals Supplier Forum giving suppliers the opportunity to contribute to thinking around how the current approvals process can be improved.



Over the past few months, several Rail Forum members have been involved and there is an open invitation for more to get involved moving forward. If you are interested, please contact Elaine (Elaine@railforum.uk)

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

May saw the start of our new membership year and the introduction of lots of changes to the membership offer.

Thank you!

This has taken a huge amount of effort from everyone in the team, in particular Gemma who prepared the new documents which I think are our best yet! And I want to thank all our members for adjusting to the new year unphased, embracing the changes in process and extended offering, and getting stuck in with the new support from the get-go. It remains a pleasure for us to work with all our members, and we are delighted by the high level of engagement which of course supports our desire for all members to receive value for money!

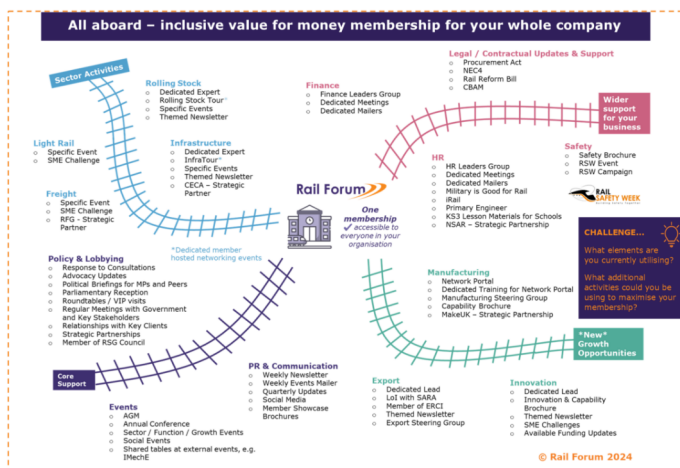
Thank you for promptly completing the new Renewals Form. This form introduced two new elements, both critical for the new membership offering:

- Key contacts – we are now able to target information and key alerts to individuals in member organisations – across marketing, safety, export, HR and Finance. We will continue to ensure high quality communication to members.
- Growth strategies – we are now able to target support based on member growth interests, which of course align with our new areas of activity: export, innovation and manufacturing. There are separate updates about these new workstreams in the QU so do take a look and get involved.

Of course things (and people) change so if you want to make any changes to contacts, or your company growth strategies, just chat with your account manager.

Renewals Meetings

Another new initiative for this year is **Renewals Meetings**. This has been a massive task for the team to offer to meet with ALL our members *at the start* of the membership year. These meetings seek to create an individual and bespoke action plans on using your membership effectively. We have done a significant number already so do ensure you respond to your Account Manager and book your session! The feedback we have received has been excellent.



"Thank you for this very thorough summary of our discussions. I really appreciate the detail you have added as it can form a basis to track our plans for this year with Rail Forum."

"It was a really good session Dave and very informative."

"Thank you for your time last week, it was great to hear about everything our membership offers."

"It was a real pleasure to meet you this morning, and thank you again for all your suggestions for making the most of the recent changes in the Rail Forum."

"Always a pleasure to catch up with you and really appreciate the detailed overview. I've already been speaking with Directors about how the wider team can be involved and benefit from our membership now to"

"Thank you for the below, timely as had our most recent account meeting with Dave yesterday, a great session as always! Dave touched upon those areas and we highlighted areas we can help one another."

New Members

We are delighted to welcome 19 new members already this year and you can find out about them in our new member section of the Quarterly Update. We have had the pleasure of meeting some of them already at various events and it's wonderful to see new members quickly settle into becoming engaged members.

Looking ahead

September will be very busy and we encourage you to continue using your membership. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Register and attend events of interest
2. Send us your news (news@railforum.uk)
3. And talk to your account manager!



FINANCE LEADERS GROUP

The Finance Leaders Group continues to go from strength to strength and we are grateful to our new Chair Steve Longmore, Finance Director, Bridgeway Consulting, and Vice Chair Mark Gadsby, Director, Fishbone Solutions for their efforts.



John Sturgeon, EMR

In June, we hosted our fourth finance leaders group with two excellent keynote speakers. John Sturgeon, Finance Director, East Midlands Railway discussed annual business planning, the funding gaps between DfT and TOCs (all) in addition to implications of a circa 85% fixed cost base.

Sam Turner, Finance Director, East West Railway outline progress with the East West Railway programme, but then looked specifically at affordability in infrastructure projects with findings from the Infrastructure Client Group. Her slides are worth a look and can be found in the Members Area / Finance Leaders Pages.



Sam Turner, East West Rail



Chris Hare, HSBC

Our fifth event will take place on 30 September - 15:00 to 16:30 (online), and we welcome Chris Hare, Economist from HSBC, and John Gerrard, Finance Lead for GBRTT as well as a speaker from our partner, PKF Smith Cooper providing a General Tax update. The return to school/work after summer holidays always represents a busy time, but following July General Election, I suspect that both our keynote speakers will have some very interesting updates. We look forward to welcoming Finance Leads from our membership to this event.



John Gerrard, GBRTT

Sign up: <https://www.railforum.uk/events/finance-leaders-group-meeting-5/>

HR LEADERS GROUP

Our HR Leaders Group met in June to hear from STEM returners, a potentially valuable source of new talent for the industry, and also to receive an employment law update from Rail Forum member, Nelsons. These sessions are really useful for your HR colleagues so please do make sure they are aware of the opportunity to join the group.

The next meeting is scheduled to coincide with our Military is Good for Rail Career event in September.

We still have some stands available for employers to exhibit and the event is now being marketed to armed forces service leavers by our partners CTP. Further information is available on the event page of the [website](#).



BOOK YOUR STAND TODAY!

MILITARY IS GOOD FOR RAIL

09:30 - 15:00 | 11 September 2024
Derby Conference Centre

Back by popular demand and following the huge success of our previous Introduction to the Rail Industry for armed forces leavers we are delighted to be hosting a fifth event.

For more information and to book your stand, please click the button below.



PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE



Why 73% Said Yes to Facial Recognition Technology

The MacRail team recently posed a question to our network: Is pen and paper an outdated method for capturing site access? An overwhelming 73% responded with a YES, reflecting a broader trend that is reshaping how businesses are approaching site access and security.

With pen and paper systems being prone to human error and fraught with limitations, it's no surprise that so many of our community champion digital solutions. Offering error-free data capture, these technologies represent a more reliable and future-proof method of rapid and secure site access.

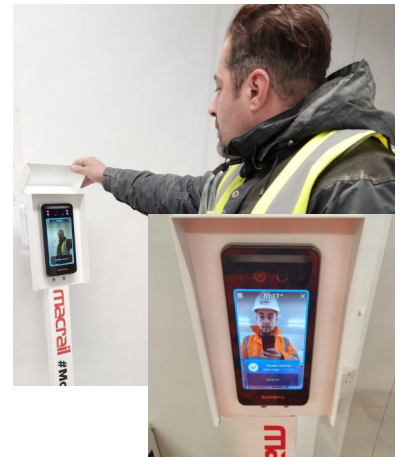
When comparing our own data from the first seven weeks of this year to the same period in 2023, the results are striking. App sign-ins have increased by

23.76%, while biometric sign-ins including facial recognition, have skyrocketed by an astonishing 864.33%, signalling a clear transformative shift.

In fact, recent reports have stated that the facial recognition market is expected to grow from \$4.0 billion in 2020 to \$8.5 billion by 2025 across sectors, propelled by the technology's ability to offer contactless identity verification in a post-pandemic world.

For MacRail, facial recognition technology certainly emerges as a game-changer in site access. Its adoption has certainly surged, particularly in rail and construction sectors, which we can only attribute to the numerous benefits it offers our clients.

If you would like to discuss the use of facial recognition technology within your organisation, we're here to help. Call our office on 01934 319331 or email us via sales@macrail.co.uk.



PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE



Transport Design International (TDI) is a UK-based design and manufacturing company specialising in lightweight, sustainable mass transport solutions. With over three decades of experience, we are market leaders in lightweighting technology, having delivered more than 135 projects worldwide.

TDI's innovative Very Light Rail (VLR) and Guided Light Transit (GLT) solutions offer lightweight, energy-efficient vehicles. Our lightweighting technology is key to our success, supporting cheaper infrastructure and enabling greener transport solutions due to the lower power requirements of our vehicles.

It has been a busy time for TDI with some significant developments/highlights.

- Design and engineering work is underway and progressing well for the Revolution VLR (RVLR) Pre-Series vehicles. We are developing these vehicles in partnership with Eversholt Rail for passenger trials in the UK. Our engineering efforts

are focused on Lightweight Thinking, with ongoing weight reduction and design enhancements based on valuable stakeholder feedback from the past two years.

- We have been working in Ironbridge to gather performance data for the propulsion system and electronic software on the RVLR Demonstrator. This data will inform further improvements to harness design and electrical systems for the RVLR Pre-Series vehicles.

- We hosted our first-ever supplier webinar for Rail Forum's supply-chain members. Working collaboratively with our supplier network is a key focus area for TDI, as we look build long term relationships.

Our COO, **Geoff Newman** explains, "In the last couple of months, we have seen some incredible teamwork up at our Ironbridge facility. With vehicle test preparation underway, it was good to see our engineers working together and the newer team members getting up close and personal with the RVLR Demonstrator vehicle."



The first few months of membership have certainly kept us busy as our export workstream takes shape.

Our Steering Group, which meets monthly have had some changes and we welcome Daniel Stephens from Encompass Group and Ben Evans from AtkinsRéalis. We encourage additional members to the group, particularly if you have ideas of how we can support both our exporting, and potential exporting members.

The group continues to work on three core areas: Events; Capability Brochure and Information Sharing and we are working on a number of actions which we hope to announce in early September.

We have recently issued two surveys to members:

- Potential exporters views on key export barriers
- Existing exporters on key information asked for by international buyers (that is different from UK).

We will evaluate responses and they will support shaping our steering group activities.

Events

Our regular Innotrans Workshop takes place on 1st July, helping members to make the most from this epic show. The briefing has the added bonus of Daniela Schild, from Switzerland Department for Business & Trade giving us some updates on the market and what Swiss activity is taking place in Innotrans. As you can see Daniela is a wonderful advocate of UK companies and is an excellent contact for any member interested in Switzerland. This *mega* event draws visitors from around the world so it's not surprising that many of our members are taking part – either exhibiting, or visiting. We will be promoting our exhibiting members and encourage our members to support this, and of course visit the stands!



We are looking forward to delivering a market briefing with the inward delegation from Turkey on 11th July focussing on rolling stock. With 1:1 meetings also taking place, this is a wonderful opportunity for rolling stock supply chain, particularly with interests in innovation and decarbonisation to meet with key rolling stock organisations.

September will see the rescheduled Midlands Track 2024 – Virtual Meet the Buyer looking at both Africa and Peru! Don't forget to register!

Sweden: UK Business Forum Roundtable

At the end of May, Elaine joined a Sweden: UK Business Forum Roundtable to discuss the opportunities for greater bilateral trade investment between the two nations. It was an interesting discussion which we hope will lead to some specific priority actions from the two governments.

Elaine in Graz with ERCI

At the end of May, we were delighted to take part in our first European Rail Clusters Initiative (ERCI) General Assembly in Graz. The Assembly brings together representatives from all the cluster members (18 in total) from across Europe to discuss current and future initiatives for the benefit of all our member organisations. Please keep an eye on our export mailers for more info about ERCI and what is planned. The Rail Forum regional round of the coveted ERCI Innovation Award is completed; the winners will be announced on Monday. Thanks to all member submissions.



HM Trade Commissioner for Europe

In May, Elaine was delighted to join HM Trade Commissioner for Europe, Chris Barton, on a tour of Alstom, providing the opportunity to share thoughts on the potential for UK rail companies to export more.

Export focused roundtable with Tan Dhesi

In May, we met with Shadow Minister Tan Dhesi at Portcullis House to discuss export activities, challenges and opportunities. A strong home market increases the export potential for companies and we continue to push this message more broadly.



We were thrilled to be joined by Sperry Rail, GCRE, Cogitamus, Siemens, TDI, Hitachi, Knorr Bremse, Infinitive Group, TXM Consult, Grinsty Rail, Alstom and Xrail. Thank you for participating in this important discussion.

We continue to work with Department for Business & Trade, and Department for Transport to support members with their international activities.

EXPORT PARTNER UPDATE

Helping Sell UK Rail Around the World...

Rail is critical to our national economy acting as the backbone of a high quality transport system that moves billions of pounds of value around the UK in the form of people, goods and services. One of the ways in which rail can enhance that contribution in the coming years is by growing our exports and selling more of the extraordinary range of knowledge, technologies and skills that we have in UK rail around the world.

The Global Centre of Rail Excellence is one of the important ways in which the UK can do that. As a site for world class rail research, testing and certification GCRE will become Europe's premier facility for rail technology development, rolling stock testing and cutting edge infrastructure innovation; a natural platform from which we can showcase globally the best of what UK rail can offer. The international interest in GCRE is certainly evident. Names such as Hitachi, CAF, Transport for Wales and Xrail have already agreed partnerships to use our services, with further interest coming from the Middle East, Asia and Australasia.

The market opportunity is significant for UK rail. The path to a net zero transport system is one that the majority of nations have now signed up to,

something that will trigger a wave of new research, development and innovation into the products and technologies needed to support those systems. Ideas and innovation are what the UK does well and net zero gives us a chance to sell more of those assets around the world. The Global Centre of Rail Excellence can act as an important platform for that work.

For anybody wanting to know more about GCRE, contact enquiries@gcre.wales



RAIL FORUM ANNUAL CONFERENCE: HARNESSING THE POWER OF THE SME COMMUNITY

09:00 - 16:00 | 15 October 2024 | Doncaster

We are planning a stellar line up of speakers not just from SMEs but also from those companies that rely on, and value the SMEs, they work with. SMEs have a huge contribution to make across every aspect of the railway and across all the key challenges we face – be that driving innovation, delivering great value or modernising our working practices.

Once again we will host a number of focused sessions that will take us on a whirlwind tour with something for everyone no matter which part of the industry you are from.

We also have some special activities planned – so watch this space as these unfold over the summer!



Headline Partner



Event Partner



*All Rail Forum members are entitled to ONE FREE PLACE and we would strongly encourage you to ensure you are represented. Premium and Patron members are entitled to additional places depending on their grade of membership.

Early booking is recommended so we can ensure we are able to accommodate as many people as possible.

[Book here](#)

Current Challenges for the UK Rail Supply Chain

The supply chain is facing a number of challenges that are impacting its efficiency and effectiveness these include, amongst others:

- **Capacity constraints:** network operating at near capacity, with limited room for growth;
- **Aging infrastructure:** rail infrastructure in need of repair or replacement;
- **Workforce shortages:** shortage of skilled workers, particularly in areas such as engineering and maintenance;
- **Regulatory changes:** changes to the range of regulatory requirements can have a notable impact on the supply chain;
- **Rolling Stock orders:** the continued 'feast and famine' of orders.

These are all in addition to those challenges which every industry is facing ranging from geopolitical issues through to availability of raw materials and troubles in Ukraine and the Middle East.

The potential solutions to the challenges seem relatively obvious be they investing in infrastructure or training and development programs through to the use of new technologies to help improve the efficiency and resilience of the supply chain as well

SHOOSMITHS

as cost reduction and improving service levels. UK Rail is however unique in its funding methodology and control, something which may well be impacted by the looming General Election, and so the onus is on the supply chain to adopt a significant level of the risk.

The Shoosmiths supply chain & manufacturing team have recently published a series of podcasts focussing on the trends, challenges and opportunities relevant to a range a sectors including rail and ways in which to identify, mitigate and embrace them;

Episode 1:

[Navigating trends challenges opportunities in supply chain and manufacturing ep1 \(shoosmiths.com\)](https://shoosmiths.com/navigating-trends-challenges-opportunities-in-supply-chain-and-manufacturing-ep1)

Episode 2:

[Navigating trends challenges opportunities in supply chain and manufacturing ep2 \(shoosmiths.com\)](https://shoosmiths.com/navigating-trends-challenges-opportunities-in-supply-chain-and-manufacturing-ep2)

Episode 3:

[Navigating trends challenges opportunities in supply chain and manufacturing ep3 \(shoosmiths.com\)](https://shoosmiths.com/navigating-trends-challenges-opportunities-in-supply-chain-and-manufacturing-ep3)

Michelle Craven-Faulkner
Partner



PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE



ZF Services UK Ltd was awarded the overhauled programme of the pump distribution gearbox for Harsco Rail's Mobile Maintenance Train (MMT).

The gearbox has two clutches that control power to two variable pumps. As

part of the overhaul programme, ZF required the capability to check the quality of the rebuilt unit before delivery of the pump distribution gearbox.

ZF's bespoke hydraulic test rig allows static torque testing of the clutch assemblies in isolation from the gearbox. The clutch assembly is mounted onto the rig and rotationally locks the input. The test rig is used to energise the clutch, while a torque is applied to the output, to check if the clutch slips under load.

Once both clutches have passed static torque testing, the gearbox is rebuilt for unloaded dynamic testing. The hydraulic test rig is then used to lubricate the gearbox and clutches and remotely energise them via a control box. This is to check that the clutches engage and disengage as expected during testing.



MANUFACTURING UPDATE

Celebrating UK Rail campaign is Live!

The Manufacturing Steering Group, established to support our new workstream introduced this membership year, are thrilled to launch their first activity: a month-long social media campaign placing a spotlight on the breadth and depth of manufacturing capability for rail in the UK. With nearly a third of members involved in manufacturing, we are keen to promote this activity.

Launched on 17th June, with our Manufacturing Partner, TDI International and in collaboration with Made in Britain, members have been showcasing their manufacturing capability across LinkedIn and X.



We encourage members to like, share, and comment on these posts and UK manufacturing members are urged to participate using the social media templates available on the [Manufacturing Page](#) on the website.

Who is the Manufacturing Steering Group?

Manufacturing Steering Group comprises of members [BCM GRC](#), [Cembre](#), [Composite Braiding](#), [CWE](#), [Datum](#), [Hydram](#), [Infotec](#), [Signal House Group](#) and [Transport Design International \(TDI\)](#) and you can find out more about the individuals involved via the [Manufacturing Page](#).

What's next?

Looking ahead, the Manufacturing Steering Group in preparation for a capability brochure – a tool which will help organisations rail manufacturers from the membership. In addition, we will shortly be announcing details around the Rail Forum Annual Conference Expo Zones. Taking place in Doncaster on 15th October, members can expect a programme which considers manufacturing (amongst other themes) and exhibiting opportunities to further showcase capabilities.

Don't forget to use the Network Portal

This is also a great opportunity to remind members that the Network Portal is an excellent tool for members to locate and connect with suppliers and thus extend their reach across different sectors. This is a free service for members and worth exploring! For more information, contact elaine@railforum.uk or visit [Network Portal](#).

MANUFACTURING PARTNER

TDI's Lightweight Thinking in Very Light Rail



Lightweight Thinking is a fundamental part of our ethos at TDI, it encompasses what we do and how we do it.

We look to apply our lightweight thinking into three core areas, it's about how we think when looking at a



problem, it's about seeking to find a better way to develop & deliver products and systems, and it's about how TDI behave both internally and externally

with customers, suppliers and colleagues. Lightweight Thinking is TDI's approach to business growth and development.

1. Lightweight thinking; a way of thinking that challenges traditional,
2. Lightweight thinking; when developing products & systems considers the costs of both the commercial and environmental impact of the whole system and challenges the first principles to seek more efficient ways of delivering the solution.
3. Lightweight thinking; during the implementation of a process or framework ensures the complete solution is considered and resolved in an efficient and timely manner.

Lightweight Thinking at a technological level to develop cutting-edge transport solutions is our core DNA. It involves a meticulous approach to designing and engineering transport vehicles that prioritise

weight reduction without compromising performance, safety, or comfort.

TDI's Lightweight Thinking naturally drives significant weight reduction into its products utilising a blend of materials, cohesive design & manufacturing principles. As a result, our lightweight vehicles naturally inspire and enable a lighter weight overall transport solution, requiring less power to operate, faster deployment and lower infrastructure and operational costs.

TDI's approach demonstrates a commitment to creating forward-thinking, sustainable transport solutions that meet the needs of modern cities and passengers, allowing us to address environmental challenges in a cost-effective and efficient way.

The benefits of Lightweight Thinking in VLR are numerous:

- Solutions that are quicker, easier and more cost-effective to deploy
- Reduced energy requirements support green propulsion systems
- Lightweight vehicles enable lower infrastructure costs
- Net Zero gains - Battery-only vehicles support regional and global decarbonisation targets.



CELEBRATING UK RAIL MANUFACTURING

infotec

Proud to be a member of Rail Forum and to sit on the Manufacturing Steering Group.

#UKRail #Rfmember

#MadeInBritain

Celebrating UK rail manufacturing

Rail Forum

Manufacturing Partner 2024-2025

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Tidyco

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CEMBRE

Did you know?...

CEMBRE Ltd Manufacture over 6 MILLION connectors a year in Sutton Coldfield, West Mids.

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BCM GRC

BCM GRC made in the UK

David Lomas exhibiting yesterday at Rail Live with their UK manufactured rail products

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WASHINGTON METALWORKS

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Tecforce Ltd

BS EN 15085 accredited with design

Flexible, responsive, and comprehensive. Tecforce's on-depot services provide assistance to clients nationwide.

All welders are fully qualified to EN standards ensuring traceability and compliance with international standards

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CB Frost

We're supporting the #UKRail Campaign

Based in Derby, the heart of rail in the UK, CB Frost is proud to support the #UKRail campaign - we want to see the manufacturing and growth of the rail, jobs, and products that the UK rail industry has. We're the agent of industry and skill to the modern rail industry.

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CB Frost

Supplying and manufacturing sealing, cushioning and anti vibration products for the modern rail industry

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DB ESG

Proud UK manufacturer.

1000s of parts designed and produced in the UK, for UK rolling stock, using digital manufacturing.

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HARTING UK

Bespoke inter vehicle jumper manufacturer

Northampton

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DATUM

Did you know.....

We also manufacture across all industries including Motor Racing and Rapid Prototyping

Whatever you need.....

We can help you take it.....

..... from concept to reality

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WILKES ENGINEERING

Wilkes Engineering are proud to be a UK manufacturer for the Rail Industry.

We have over 150 years of experience in the design, development, and manufacture of specialist locks and hinges.

- 3D CAD Design
- 3D Printing
- Prototyping
- Development
- Testing
- Manufacture
- Repair

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LPA Group

A proud UK designer and manufacturer of LED lighting systems, seat electronics & inter-connect solutions for the rail industry

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AURA

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ELITE PRECAST CONCRETE

Legato Concrete Blocks

Helping to keep people and infrastructure safe and trains running with ALO working approval

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Flotec

Rail Division

FLOTEC

A BRITISH MANUFACTURER

A FEATURE STORY

INNOVATIONS AND REVOLUTIONS

MADE IN BRITAIN

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IMK

Rail interior components and seating

- REFURBISHMENT
- SEAT COVERS
- DRIVER SEATS
- DRIVER BLINDS
- ARM RESTS
- DADO PANELS

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w.h. Davis

UK's Only Rail Wagon Manufacturer

#MadeInBritain

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St Ann's Sheet Metal

Manufacturing train parts in Nottingham...with (as you can see) a paint booth too!

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TIME 24

UK Manufacturing Excellence

Systems Integration

Complex Wiring Solutions

Electro-Mechanical Assemblies

Panel Building

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HYDRAM

Proud to be your UK Manufacturing Partner & supporting the #UKRail Campaign

Sheet metal fabrications supplier (Hydrant certified to Rail following quality standards)

ISO 9001:2015 Quality Standard

ISO 3834-2 Welding Standard

BS EN 15085-2 CL1 CW/RC Welding Standard

EN7460 / DIN 6254 standard for advanced bending of rail industry

ISO 14001 Environmental

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HellermannTyton

Rail Approved Cable Ties By HellermannTyton.

Cable management for the rail industry. Discover how you can increase the efficiency of cable and wire assembly and installation in rail vehicles.

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DIAL ROSS LIMITED

#MadeInBritain

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UK Manufacturing Excellence

- Cutting Edge Innovation
- High Quality
- Supporting Local Supply Chains
- Greener Solutions

Let's celebrate and support our homegrown talent.

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Muirhead

200 Scotland Central

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Ibstock

At the heart of building

Made in UK and Low Carbon

Check out Anderson at Rail Live today - hear more about this fantastic offering

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KeTech

Manufacturing intelligent software systems.

KeTech has been designing, developing and delivering innovative rail-time journey systems for over 20 years.

KeTech's Universal Information System (UIS) connects all rail time systems to create a master system. Streamlining operations and improving customer experience all in one place!

Software is manufacturing too.

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LBFoster

#MadeInBritain

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HARRIS GROUP

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Ride the Route Goes West!

Following the huge success of Ride the Route 2022 and 2023, where a cross industry team of riders from multiple organisations across the East Coast Digital Programme (ECDP) cycled the East Coast Main Line route, first from York to London and last year from Edinburgh to York – Ride the Route is headed West this year for the next chapter of the challenge!

From the **5th to 7th September**, riders from the ECDP community will join riders from the TriLink Programme to take on a 375km ride following the West Coast Main Line North route between Glasgow and Manchester, to raise as much money as they can for Railway Children. This ride aims to bring together organisations working on ETCS transformation, building new relationships and establishing a broader community – but anyone is welcome.



Railway Children are seeking volunteers from across the rail industry to come together to do some collective good – whether that's taking to the pedals for 1, 2 or 3 days; joining the support crew to ensure the riders are fed, hydrated and safe; or sponsoring the riders and cheering them over the finish line!

The ride will start at Glasgow Central Station and finish at Manchester Piccadilly, which are two important locations for Railway Children where they continue provide support to vulnerable children.

Here's the agenda for the trip:

Day 1 - Glasgow to Gretna (140km)

Day 2 - Gretna to Lancaster (130km)

Day 3 - Lancaster to Manchester (100km)

AtkinsRéalis are proud to announce that we are a Gold Sponsor of this year's Ride the Route and would like to encourage other organisations to take up a sponsorship or put forward some riders for the challenge.

Mark Fielding-Smith, National Services Director at AtkinsRéalis and founder of Ride the Route, says:

"Ride the Route brings people together across our industry to ensure the safety of vulnerable children. It helps build and maintain trusted relationships and exemplifies what we are doing together as an industry in the delivery of ETCS. I'm so proud of what we have achieved in the past 2 years and am excited that we're taking this out west to bring more of our industry colleagues along for the ride!"



All funds raised will go to Railway Children, providing protection and opportunity for children with nowhere else to go and nobody to turn to.

[Click here](#) to find out more and to get involved!



For information on corporate sponsorship and donations, please email:

events@railwaychildren.org.uk



children RAILWAY
No child lost to the streets

TRILINK
A WEST COAST NORTH COLLABORATION

INNOVATION UPDATE

This workstream has a range of exciting activities **all in development** so here is a hint of what's to come!

Innovation in Rail

Our first Innovation event in conjunction with University of Derby, will be held on Tuesday 2nd July. With speakers from across the rail innovation landscape, this fully booked event provides not only insight into opportunities and key organisations actively supporting innovation, but also key guidance to both protect and commercialise IP.

Speakers include:



Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain,
Innovation Manager, East
West Rail



Mark Haymar, Innovation
Delivery Manager, LNER



Nicola Kissaglis, Head of
Products, Unipart Rail

We also welcome Rail Supply Group's Paul Corcoran to outline the plans for the new Innovation Charter which should further support and steer the industry to improved innovation landscape.

all members that if they are interested in exploring innovation support, to contact their Account Managers.

Support available includes 1:1 support from a specialist advisor, access to grant funding and finance opportunities and export support.

Please speak to your account manager about this further, particularly if you:

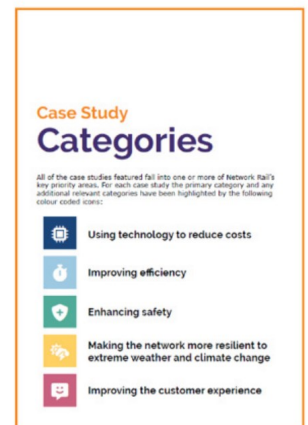
- Have management commitment to innovation
- Are looking to grow
- Are seeking guidance for process innovation, product innovation or service innovation

SME Challenge

Bob and Cat are busy working behind the scenes to prepare our next SME Challenge. We hope to launch this in October!

Innovation Capability Brochure

If you missed out on your free entry in this year's [brochure](#), worry not. We will be inviting members to submit entries for the 2025 edition towards the end of the year.



Other Events and Opportunities include:

Annual Conference (Oct) – Another hint of things to be announced – our Annual Conference, 15th October in Doncaster, will also feature an extensive expo zone – including a dedicated area for Innovation AND a small live demo zone! ([don't forget to book your places today!](#))

Innovation in 21st century operations (Nov)– Watch this space for the next exciting innovation event to launch to members. This time with an infrastructure and performance focus! A date for your diary: 19th November!

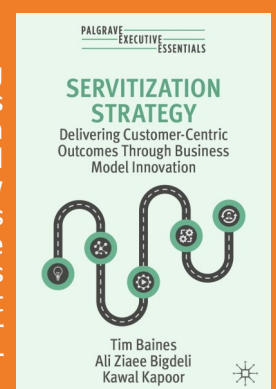
Dedicated Innovation guidance

We continue to work with our partner InnovateUK but alas 'purdah' (pre-election rules limiting PR) has delayed our formal announcement. Nevertheless, work is going on in the background and we remind

So our 2024-2025 Membership year is shaping up nicely for innovation!

Servitization

Following the fascinating presentation at last year's Annual Conference by Iain McKechnie, Elaine attended the launch of the new Servitization book and has been discussing their case study research activities with them and looking at how we can engage further for the benefit of our members.



Think different: We need to move away from the dogma of total network electrification

Alternative traction technologies are available and in passenger service on the continent

There. I've said it. And I don't apologise. The historic obsession with completely electrifying the remaining 62% of the UK's rail network needs to end. It's time to think differently. To think beyond solely how electrification will deliver Net Zero, to instead how (and where) electrification can best support delivery of an accessible, affordable, efficient and reliable railway for passengers and the taxpayer.



There are many competing views for how to deliver such a railway – and not forgetting the endless reviews, plans and commitments that have come to

naught. These competing views are matched by competing demands for investment. While the list of demands seems endless, we should not forget that it is driven by the success of the railway and a collective desire to release untapped potential in support of economic, environmental and social growth.

Establishing Great British Railways is a significant first step, but only if it delivers a long-term, stable and fully-funded plan. At the point of delivery it must be free of politics and 'tinkering' by officials, instead driven by industry experts and professionals that not only know how the railway operates, but have the ideas and ingenuity to deliver positive lasting change with, and on behalf of, the government of the day.

Indeed, there is no better group of people to tackle the challenge of how to replace ageing, polluting and inefficient rolling stock from the network. This effort has been hamstrung by the pace of electrification – that can no longer be an excuse. Alternative traction technologies are in successful passenger operation on the continent. We need a mix of traction technologies on the UK network, powering new fleets of accessible, comfortable and reliable trains if a greater number of people are to choose rail.



The rail supply sector has many asks of the next government. I have a simple one: bring together a body of industry experts and professionals, lock them in a room with a map of the UK rail network and do not let them out until agreement has been reached on what, of the remaining 62% of the network, should be electrified, part electrified or left to battery, hydrogen or hybrid traction. Then agree a timetable, secure the funding, confirm the works packages and place the orders.

Easier said than done? Possibly, but we have the people, the skills and the construction, manufacturing and delivery prowess to kick start a rejuvenation of our railways during the next Parliament.

A long-term, fully-funded plan will provide certainty and confidence for the rail supply sector to invest. The outcomes will surpass expectations. Just look at London's Elizabeth Line!

Chris Marlow, Public Affairs Director
Alstom UK & Ireland



UPCOMING EVENT - SECURE YOUR PLACE



Rail Forum

#RFevent

Adapting to the (un)certainty of climate change

05 September 2024 | 09:15 – 15:00 | Leeds

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time. It is already having significant impact on the operational railway; with **major spend of £2.7bn planned in CP7** to enhance the resilience of the network.

This event will explore what Network Rail has been doing, what is planned to adapt to an ever-evolving climate, the impact on operators and **the role of the supply chain in providing solutions and mitigating impacts.**

Keynote Speaker



Martin Frobisher
Group Safety and Engineering
Director, Technical Authority

NetworkRail



**Don't miss out!
Book your place**



Event Partner

MTMS engineers make a beeline for Manchester as it picks up tram wash maintenance contract

Midlands rail depot maintenance firm MTMS has made a move into the light rail sector after securing a deal with the Manchester Metrolink tram network.

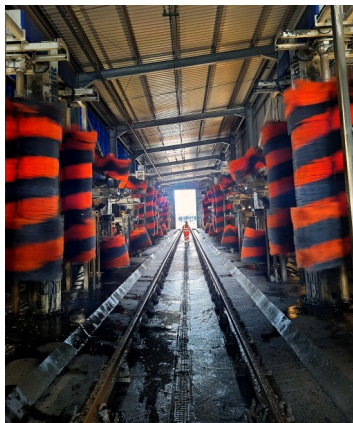
The company has agreed to service the tram washes at both of the network's depots, in Old Trafford and Queens Road, for the next three years.

The contract started this month with a deep clean of the Old Trafford tram wash machine, which involved jet-washing years'-worth of accumulated dirt and moss and dechlorinating the water tanks.

MTMS maintains equipment at more than half of the UK's rail depots, but the contract for Metrolink – which is owned by Transport for Greater Manchester and operates as part of the Bee Network, the integrated transport network for Greater Manchester – is the first of its kind for the firm.

Regular tram and carriage washing is vital for operators, because cleanliness helps maintain a good public image while also reducing wear and tear on components and bodywork caused by particulates and contamination.

It means that carriage wash machines and tram washes are vital pieces of equipment on rail depots and, since they undergo heavy use, regular maintenance is key, including ensuring the water tanks are properly chlorinated and monitoring the key components responsible for everything throughout the process, from the initial pre-rinse through to the final drying.



This also includes the all-important spinning brushes or flails responsible for the scrubbing phase.

Indeed, in the weeks before MTMS's engineers set foot on the Old Trafford depot for the first time, they had completed an extensive overhaul of the

CWM at Hitachi's North Pole depot in London.

This involved replacing and installing eight eave brushes,

eight skirt brushes and 12 side brushes, all profiled to the contour of the Great Western Railway (GWR)'s AT300 units which call the depot home.

Matt Forst, managing director of MTMS, said: "We've made our name in the industry by looking after some of the hardest-working equipment in our customers' depots, where a breakdown could result in delays to their services and heavy fines from regulators.

"We're really pleased to have signed a three-year contract with Metrolink. Manchester's trams are iconic in the city and they're used by millions of people every day.



"They may never give the cleanliness of the trams a second thought, but we're proud that our engineers are helping to keep them looking their best."

Initially opened in 1992, Greater Manchester's tram network consist of eight lines transporting passengers between 99 stops, covering a distance of nearly 64 miles.

Around 36 million passenger journeys are made on the system every year, travelling on a fleet of 147 high-floor Bombardier light rail vehicles.

Based in Moira, Leicestershire, MTMS carries out a wide range of depot maintenance and infrastructure upgrade tasks, working on behalf of such familiar names in mainline rail as First MTR South-Western Railway, Govia ThamesLink Railway, Arriva and Siemens.

To find out more information visit www.mtms.co.uk



Highlights from Bob

Since the last quarterly update I have enjoyed catching up with many of the existing members and also had the pleasure of welcoming new members to the Rail Forum.

New members include **Howmet Fasteners** who manufacture the well known HUCK fastener here in the UK, **RailSpares** who have extensive knowledge in supplying spares to the rail sector with a strong focus on problem solving and obsolescence, **REO UK Ltd** who specialise in manufacturing bespoke electronic components, **Pendyne** a multi-skilled engineering consultancy based in Derby and **Dellner Glass Solutions** who have been a long standing supplier to the rail industry with facilities in Consett, Tamworth and Luton.

In addition, a number of existing members took advantage of upgrading to Premium membership include **EAO** who provide many of the switches you see on existing rolling stock and are always developing new solutions for the market, **Armstrong Manufacturing** who can provide both metal fabrications and composites for rail, **Voith Turbo** who are specialists in transmission systems, **Greenbank Terotech** with a large metal fabrication facility based in the Midlands, **Liebherr** who manufacture and overhaul HVAC systems, **Washington Metalworks** based in Gosforth who have one of the most comprehensive metal fabrication facilities I have ever had the pleasure to visit and **Signature Rail** who develop and supply train planning software for the TOCs.

A visit to Rail Live gave me the opportunity to catch up with **Portaramp**, **BCIMO** and **Howmet Fasteners** who all took advantage of exhibiting at UKs largest outdoor rail expo.

I now look forward to meeting as many members as possible who will be exhibiting at the ever popular Rolling Stock Networking (RSN) Expo taking place in Derby on the 4th July along with all those members visiting on the day.



Highlights from David (K)

I'm delighted to return to the Rail Forum assisting on an interim basis following Ben's departure.

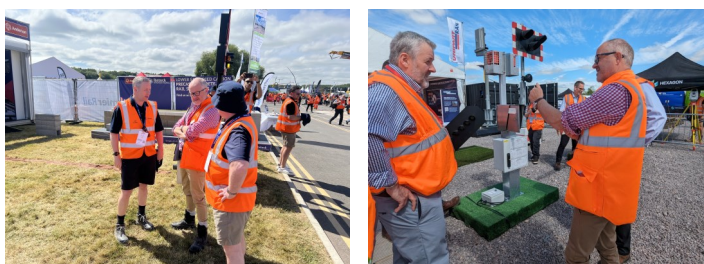
Having completed a number of engagement meetings with Infrastructure Members over the last couple of months there are 3 common themes, namely;

1. The Control Period 7 start up since April has once again been frustrating with a number of Network Rail projects not yet reaching purchase order approval status. For example one national Framework Contractor has reported approval delays on the Southern Integrated Delivery partnership in Wessex, Sussex and Kent which in turn has had knock-on delays for the procurement of key infrastructure components and services provided by many of our Members.

2. Members are stepping up to Network Rail's challenge to deliver a sustainable railway.

At the recent Rail Live exhibition Andrew Haines Network Rail's Chief Executive engaged with **Anderton Concrete** on their stand to review the 22% carbon reduction achieved on concrete cable trough product manufacture to date.

Andrew also visited the **Unipart Rail** stand to discuss the whole life cost benefits of their collaboration with Newgate on an innovative approach to level crossing barrier manufacturing.



3. The Infrastructure sector continues to keep Safety in the forefront of hearts and minds.

Our member **Ainscough Cranes** who provide the Industry with a craneage installation and removal service for rail structures have introduced a complete 'Safety stay down day' where all employees throughout the business return from their work sites to the regional Ainscough depots. They then spend one working day discussing and reviewing operational safety best practice in rail and to share appropriate lessons learned.

I now look forward to catching up with as many Infrastructure Members over the Summer as possible to ensure that your business is benefiting from a value for money Rail Forum membership.

Highlights from Dave (E)

This quarter has possibly been one of the busiest since I began, but more importantly also one of the most enjoyable and, without over exaggerating, the most uplifting. There really is far too much to even come close to detailing everything, but equally there have been some key themes running throughout.

Innovation is a word we hear regularly and I was incredibly pleased to be asked to speak at Amulet's Innovation Conference, focussing on a number of the innovations we know our members are leading on, whilst also giving some broader thoughts around innovation and the importance of culture to allow it to truly flourish.

The genuine opportunity to explore industry / customer needs and requirements is absolutely crucial to allow genuine innovation to flourish and it was fantastic to be part of our first member hosted networking event at Oleo, allowing for some really meaningful networking and conversations to take place between members alongside WMT, Northern and Network Rail. This was also so apparent again for many of our members during Rail Live and the all-round energy across the 2 days was fantastic to feel.

It's been great to see so many members engaging with our 'Made in Britain' rail manufacturing campaign, having spoken with many who are incredibly proud and passionate to bring their manufacturing expertise to our Industry. One that stood out for me was Sherwood Aluminium. Hearing and then seeing first hand the innovation and first of a kind 'in house' engineering decisions that have been made, particularly on their powder coating line, to truly add value and benefit to customers, was such a great example that focus upon cost reduction, does not always come ahead of innovation, quality and customer satisfaction.

TOCTalk was a huge success and so many members have said just how valuable they found it. They heard about some of the 'complexities' of the NRC process, procurement decisions and requirements, but also heard first hand from multiple Operators about the opportunities that exist across their fleets in the shorter term. It's hard to come up with one clear headline, but for me sitting down with CHH Conex shortly after and hearing how their new apprentice already opened up opportunities as a result was a real highlight.

This leads perfectly into my final highlight, but the one if I'm honest certainly made me the most proud, both professionally and as a father, when my son had his 'day with parent' from school. A huge thank you must go to EMR and Sperry Rail, as it once again epitomised so clearly what we all know, that the industry is surrounded with leaders and people who genuinely care about those working within it today, but also those who will hopefully be actively seeking to build a career in the sector tomorrow.



Highlights from Karen

Although my role is to manage events and marketing I do look after a small number of member accounts.

I had a great opportunity to attend **Enigma Seven and Ford and Stanley's** corporate away day yesterday and was treated to a great day of clay pigeon shooting by hosts Shane Duffy and Frazer Stirling. Whilst there I caught up several other members too.



I had a great online chat with Jacinta Barnicoat of **Mainspring**. We discussed arrangements for their Dinner at the Roundhouse as well as something very exciting that they will be launching shortly.

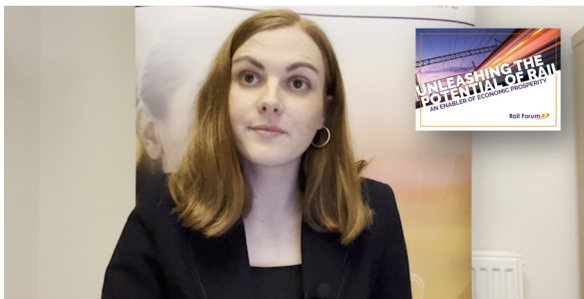
I also caught up with Matt Harrison of **Simply Uniform** who showed me some of the branded items they are providing for rail companies. As well as looking at potential other items of Rail Forum branded uniform.

TEAM UPDATE

Highlights from Jemma

It's been a busy few months and I've had the pleasure to get involved in a range of different activities and workstreams that support our members. A few highlights in brief, although I could have mentioned lots more!

The launch of our General Election policy document on behalf of our members, with the support of my Policy Group. Please do take the time to look at this document which outlines five recommendations that would unleash the potential of rail.



Involvement in various member tours and roundtables, including (then) Shadow Rail Minister, Stephen Morgan, the international team at DBT and Neil Hodgson the new Director General at DBT.



Joining Rail Forum member Fishbone Solutions for a meeting with HS2 and Councillor Baggy Shankar. A really productive and passionate discussion with some key themes - innovation, collaboration, investing in future talent.

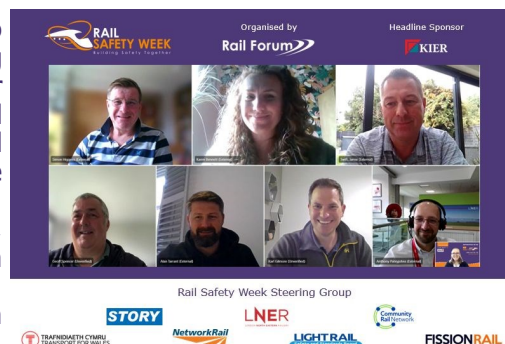


Participating in Wabtec UK's Multi-Activity Day at Shottle Hall. A brilliant day learning some new skills while also getting to network with industry friends and colleagues. A great opportunity to catch up with several members including Angel Trains, CAF, Direct Rail Services, GB Railfreight, Northern, Porterbrook, West Midlands Trains and ZF Services. A big thank you to our friends at Patron member Wabtec for inviting Rail Forum, it was so lovely to join you!



All things Rail Safety Week! I'm proud to be the communications lead for Rail Safety Week and it's fantastic to see the industry coming together to bring rail safety to the forefront, in workplaces, for passengers, and for schools and communities.

Thank you to the Steering Group for their valued input, and also to the brilliant Sunny Cross, who has been supporting me with social media!



Last thing I want to mention, **this Saturday** (29 June) between 10:00 - 14:00 at Derby Station, I will be doing a handout of our 2024 Rail Safety Week Children's Competitions, as well as the amazing Arlo's Adventure book, alongside Rony and Anna of the YRP East Midlands Committee. If anyone passes through, please come and say hello!



Thank you to EMR for their support and Community Rail for donating the Arlo's books!



Xrail Group and Schweizer Electronic Ltd have formed a partnership to deliver a new Turnkey Level Crossing Solution to support the CP7 pipeline.

CP6 saw a number of challenges across the industry in delivering Level Crossing upgrades on-time and to budget. Coupled to this, the fact that the Rail Industry is undergoing a huge transformation as the government creates a new public body, Great British Railways, to oversee the Network, or indeed who will be running our government after the impending General Election, and Xrail and Schweizer Electronic felt it was time to jointly develop a solution that challenges the current market standard in Level Crossing delivery. We want to make sure CP7 is different!

This partnership will provide the industry with a one stop shop Level Crossing solution with Schweizer Electronic, as the original equipment manufacturer coupled with Xrail Group's extensive expertise in signalling design and installation, delivering an all-encompassing service from initial survey/design, material supply, installation, to full commissioning.



Following a long period of research and extensive discussions with Network Rail, Tier 1 Contractors and others involved with Level Crossing delivery, we decided to bring our turnkey solution to market to work

collaboratively with our customers in supporting them with a number of challenges which were faced during CP6. Some of these challenges included:-

- Numerous contractor pricing models
- Access and authorisation issues
- Ad-hoc purchases of raw materials
- Cost, staffing and programme issues



In developing the solution we were listening to the voice of the contractors who are facing daily challenges in Level Crossing installation and using this key feedback to develop a service that directly works toward reducing these issues.

Working in collaboration with the supply chain we can now offer a pick & mix service solution that responds directly to the needs of the contractor and the specific operations each crossing requires as they are all unique in their own right.

We are jointly very proud of the solution we now offer to our customers and are delighted with the initial interest from a number of customers.

SCHWEIZER ELECTRONIC

No matter who wins the Election – GBR is the future!

Great British Railways (GBR) will act as the railway's guiding/directing mind – able to plan for an innovative, dynamic and decarbonised future network, that is able to efficiently deliver growth in the numbers of passengers and goods carried across Britain's railway network.

The distinction on what sort of 'mind' GBR will have depends on who wins the forthcoming General Election. If there is a Labour majority, then GBR's mind will be 'directing'; if the Conservatives retain power then GBR will have a 'guiding' mind. Either way, both major parties have confirmed that Derby will be the new Headquarters location for Great British Railways.

The East Midlands is already home to Europe's largest rail cluster, centred around Derby (which is also home to the Rail Forum, representing almost 400 companies nationwide working in the sector).

The arrival of Great British Railways in Derby provides a major opportunity to create a Rail Campus in the city; bringing together public and private sector organisations in a collaborative environment to deliver faster and more efficient outcomes for all the railway's customers.

Derby will play a key role in delivering a simpler, better railway for everyone in Britain. At the same time Derby Rail Campus can support UK exports by providing a unique showcase for British railway innovation and excellence in both engineering and operations to worldwide markets.

Derby City Council and key regional stakeholders are looking to share their vision for the Derby Rail Campus at a major conference in the city, planned to take place in October. If you would like to be kept informed about this event please let Jemma (jemma@railforum.uk) know or watch out for further information from Rail Forum colleagues.



Rupert Brennan Brown
RailPR

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 **Autumn** issue is
Monday 16th September 2024.

Celebrating growth in our reach

We are absolutely delighted to have hit a new follower milestone on LinkedIn, we now have more than **12,000** followers!

We also have a consistent average readership of our newsletter this last quarter at a staggering **51.5%**!

Since the last Quarterly Update, we have continued to grow in our Marketing and Communications support, including both our weekly newsletters which have seen 255 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 768 and our content across LinkedIn alone has had **over 116K impressions in the past 90 days!**



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

Anderton Delivers Lower Carbon Concrete Alternatives with Platform Solutions Range

Ibstock's Rail & Infrastructure specialist brand Anderton is helping the rail sector work towards a greener tomorrow by offering a range of platform solutions that deliver significant reductions in embodied carbon – an increasingly key consideration for rail operators.



These include a trio of products containing one of the lowest embodied carbon concrete platform copers contents in the UK.

Two of these – Ibstock's G-Tech Dual Coper and Trestle Slab Concrete Coping range – are manufactured with an 76% reduction in eCO2*, providing an overall eCO2 reduction of 70%. The third product is Ibstock's low

embodied carbon Tactile Paving, which provides an excellent retrofit solution to existing station platforms, which do not have this safety feature.

Ibstock has over five years' experience in supplying high quality platform copers to the rail sector.



Ibstock
At the heart of building



<https://www.ibstock.co.uk/products/rail-products/platform-solutions>

**76% reduction in materials embodied carbon compared to previous mix. A 35% reduction in embodied carbon based on A1-A3 GWP kgCO2/tonne.*

PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

SWR connects forward-facing CCTV to the cloud for 'first-class' incident response

South Western Railway has connected its fleet of Class 158 and Class 159 DMUs to the Journeo Portal.

Using precise positioning data and integration to legacy forward-facing CCTV equipment, vehicles are tracked in real-time, and recorded images made available to operations and emergency teams. If a serious incident happens the system provides British Transport Police with secure access to footage and data, enabling appropriate action to be taken and the service to be released as soon as possible.

With this connected solution, response times are predicted to drop from hours to just minutes, as it



removes the need to visit trains to collect video and eliminates the

difficulties of sharing information using emails and USB drives. Only authorised users can remotely download footage and securely share data, in line with data privacy regulations.

For additional peace of mind, the Journeo Portal automatically checks the health of systems and alerts SWR and maintenance teams to any issues.

A summer of innovation from Journeo

Across the summer, Journeo will be showcasing how our turnkey and software-led solutions make transport networks smarter, safer and more sustainable. Visitors to Rail Live will have seen a demo of our Track Infrastructure Monitoring application, soon to be used across Scotland. And at Rolling Stock Networking, we'll cover how CCTV, passenger counting and passenger information systems can be managed from a single intelligent transport platform.



RAIL LIVE

We had a fantastic two days engaging with members and targeting our time at the show to add extra value to those exhibiting. The team was delighted to make our way around the site, clocking up well over 100,000 steps as we caught up with both exhibiting and visiting members.



On each day, we were delighted to host a VIP tour with some of our members. The first tour was with Andrew Haines, CEO of Network Rail and featured:

- REAX for a demo of their working at heights
- Ibstock - Anderton Concrete and their reduced carbon UK manufacturing products
- LB Foster's excellent totem display
- Unipart Rail's fantastic time saving system from Gripple UK & Ireland

- SPL Powerlines UK for a look around their new Colmar unit delivering significant time efficiency with piling

The second tour saw Robert Ampomah, Chief Technology Officer at Network Rail visiting:

- Severn Partnership to see their latest developments in surveying (including their wearable scanner)
- Hayley Rail and their secure 'remote store' for use across the network
- BCRRE with some of their latest work on condition monitoring
- Belvoir Rail with their quadruped robots - multiple uses for these!
- TÜV Rheinland to hear about their extensive services and expansion overseas

Elaine participated in a panel session hosted by Lucy Prior of #RFmember Trough-Tec Systems. The panel discussed the multiple challenges of cost reduction, driving sustainability and safety performance and encouraging new entrants to the industry.

Jemma was thrilled to capture video clips of all our Premium and Patron members that were exhibiting, keep an eye out for the video compilation...!

RAIL SAFETY WEEK



It's day five of #RSW24 and it's been amazing to see so much support from across the industry for this important safety initiative. Social media is buzzing with activity and it's clear that safety really does bring people together.

We are working hard to capture the various events and activities that are happening, however, if you have been supporting #RSW24, please submit your plans direct if they aren't currently featured. Complete a simple (and quick!) [form located at the top of the What's On 2024 page](#).

Are you following us on social media?

Stay up to date across [LinkedIn](#), [X](#) and [Instagram](#) - there's lots of fantastic activity to see from across the industry!



RSW Conference #BuildingSafetyTogether

We were delighted to welcome so many industry colleagues to our conference in Manchester. For those that missed it we will provide a summary soon!



Please share our 2024 Children's Competitions with friends, family and schools....

Deadline: 29 July at 17:00

Colouring competition (ages 4-8)

Rail safety themed Crossword (ages 8-11)



railsafetyweek.org/resources/rsw-childrens-competitions/

PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

Over the past 4 years Oaklin has provided Commercial Advisory services for Network Rail. Our work has delivered significant CAPEX and OPEX savings (over £40m) whilst focussing on transforming existing services into modern capabilities. Oaklin's work has evolved from preparing and running tenders to strategic service reviews including spend analysis and Control Period (CP) planning.



To prepare and run tenders we have worked hard to understand service spend and delivery challenges.

The team has assessed market offerings, refined (or defined) category and sourcing strategies in order to

align and achieve Business and Procurement sign-off. This work requires a relentless focus on keeping things moving at pace whilst ensuring different stakeholders are aligned on expected timeline, service changes and budget impacts.

Once the mechanics of a tender are established, our team typically act as an "honest broker" between stakeholder groups across the business, commercial and procurement, legal and supplier teams. Oaklin has demonstrated this is essential because it enables compliant fair tenders that promote innovative solutions from suppliers which meet Network Rail's requirements and, of course, the most economically advantageous wins! In all cases, this required our team to have a firm handle on the tender process to ensure against scope ambiguity and to negate any game play tactics. Key capabilities including project management, change management, design-thinking, innovation and putting our customer at the centre of all tenders, has enabled us to help Network Rail deliver on a number of CP6 priorities as well as to plan and deliver into CP7.

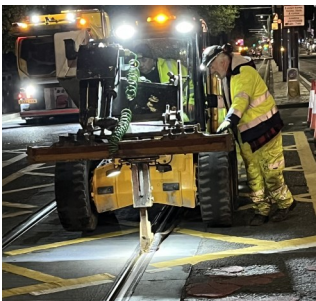


Alex Walsh

PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

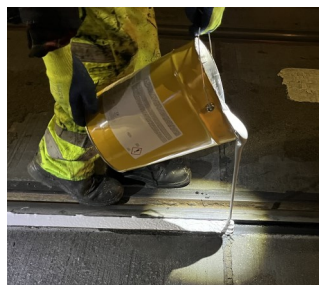
Sika® keeps Edinburgh Trams on track

Sika® rode to the rescue when [Edinburgh Trams](#) needed to replace its faulty embedded rail joint sealant. Discovering the replacement part had a long lead time, the tram operator instructed contractor [Markon](#) to approach Sika® for a speedier solution.



Having worked with Sika® for several years, Edinburgh Trams knew that not only are Sika's® products fit for purpose but also that site support and training in their correct application are included as standard.

Given the tight timescale to complete the job, Sika® recommended [Sikaflex®-406 KC](#), a one-part, self-levelling, elastic joint sealant with high mechanical and chemical resistance, in this case to diesel. Designed for elastic joint sealing between rails, rapid and homogeneous curing throughout the entire sealant was accelerated by adding Sikaflex®-406 KC Booster.



As the tram rail is in daily use, timing was critical. The repair was completed over two nights in May, between the hours of midnight and 4.30am, avoiding service disruption. Beforehand, Sika® provided full training in the product's application to contractor Markon at Edinburgh Trams' Cogar depot. This covered how to remove the failed sealant, prepping and priming the affected area, correct mixing of the new sealant and pouring the resin into place.

It was critical the network reopened on time so in line with Sika's® high standard of aftercare, a Sika® representative was present on-site on both nights to assist and advise.

As a Sika guaranteed solution, Edinburgh Trams is assured that [Sikaflex®-406 KC](#) will last for many years, maintenance-free.



Contact member:

T: 0800 112 3863

E: constructionsolutions@uk.sika.com

W: bit.ly/sikarailsolutions

RAIL FORUM EVENTS

Since the last quarterly update we have held 7 events. 4 face to face and 3 online.

The events covered Preparing for the Procurement Act, our popular rolling stock focussed event - TOCTalk, two member hosted events covering Infrastructure and finishing off with our RSW Conference in Manchester to kick off Rail Safety Week.

Future Events

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

Calendar of Events 2024/2025					
May 2024		Supported by	June 2024		Supported by
9	Preparing for the Procurement Act - Online	SHCOSMITHS	4	Member Hosted Networking event (Depot Safety & Technology)	OLEO
15	TOCTalk - Derby	SHCOSMITHS	10	Finance Leaders Group - Online	OLEO
			12	Member Hosted Networking event (Trackside Safety)	RSS
			12	HR Leaders Group - Online	OLEO
			24	Rail Safety Week Conference - Manchester	OLEO
			26/27	Africa briefing - online	OLEO
August 2024		Supported by	September 2024		Supported by
			4	Member Hosted Networking event (TBC)	
			5	Adapting to the (un)Certainty of Climate Change - Leeds	
			9	Midlands Track 2024: Virtual Meet the Buyer	
			11	Military is Good for Rail - Derby	
			11	HR Leaders Group - Derby	
			30	Finance Leaders Group - online	
October 2024		Supported by	November 2024		Supported by
			9	Member Hosted Networking event (TBC)	
			15	Annual Conference - Doncaster	

Our 2024/2025 Patrons

ALSTOM AtkinsRéalis Fenix MTMS porterbrook resonate Wabtec XTRAIL

Click to expand

Introduction to Innotrans	1 July	Online
Innovation in Rail	2 July	Derby
Turkish Rail Market Briefing	11 July	Derby
Charity Golf Day	18 July	Derbyshire
Annual General Meeting	23 July	Derby
Summer Gathering	23 July	Derby
Adapting to the (un)Certainty of Climate Change	5 Sep	Leeds
Military is Good for Rail	11 Sep	Derby
HR Leaders Group	11 Sep	Derby
Finance Leaders Group	30 Sep	Online
Annual Conference	15 Oct	Doncaster
Vehicle Maintenance	14 Nov	Northampton

We would finally like to say a huge thank you to all our event partners who have agreed a partnership package with us during this membership year. Your support is invaluable, 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](#).

Karen Jackson
Events and Marketing Manager

Rail Forum

Events Programme and Partnership Packages 2024/2025

Click to expand

Our Esteemed #RFPatrons

ALSTOM

AtkinsRéalis

Fenix

MTMS

porterbrook

resonate

Wabtec

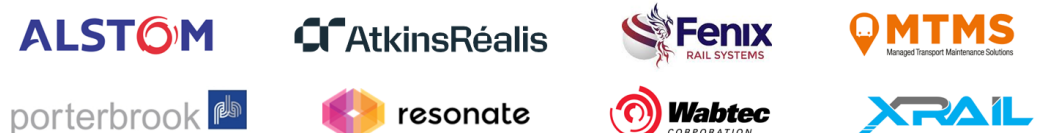
XTRAIL



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



PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

Tecforce's busy start to 2024 continues with high profile works for a number of manufacturers. This strong grounding is supporting our growth ambitions allowing us to build upon and expand the team's capacity and capabilities. These complex works demonstrate our agility to support our customers, not just with routine works but also with big ticket solutions to significant problems.



New appointments have been made with the addition of Louise Leigh who has joined Tecforce as New Business Manager. With extensive experience in a technical sales environment with Seyntex and Milliken & Company, Louise will work alongside the existing team of Steve Carter and Sanya Chaudry, supported by Andrew Watson when required.



To support our growth initiatives and to demonstrate our commitment to offering customers a broader solution, we have partnered with Ultrafux who offer significant experience and capability in advanced testing. This has given us the ability to grow our capabilities and offer significantly more services than we have previously. Ultrafux have over 80 years of experience of NDT & Welding Certification. We feel this partnership will extensively compliment our complex welding solutions.

Finally, we have engaged Aura's, Creative Sparx business, to support our marketing initiatives starting with a revitalisation of our branding which we will be launching in the coming weeks.

2024 is shaping up to be an exciting time for the business and we intend to be extremely active with our existing and new customers.

PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

An update from Aura Brand Solutions

As we reflect on a busy quarter, Aura Brand Solutions is thrilled to share some of the highlights and achievements that have defined the past few months. In the lead-up to the highly anticipated Rolling Stock Networking (RSN) event, our team has been hard at work supplying many of the attendees with sustainable promotional items and event stands. We're delighted to see our commitment to sustainability is shared throughout the industry, and we are proud to contribute to the reduction of

environmental impact at such a significant industry gathering.



Our involvement with the RSN doesn't stop there. As sponsors of this year's event, we are looking forward to continuing to collaborate with our industry colleagues and building stronger relationships within the rail community.

We are also excited to announce that we are wrapping trains in anticipation of this year's Pride celebrations, this time for West Midlands, Cross Country and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM). Seeing our work bring colour and joy to the railways is incredibly rewarding, and we are honoured to be part of it all again.

Looking ahead, we are pursuing some exciting opportunities overseas. While we can't reveal too much yet, we encourage you to follow along on LinkedIn for updates as we expand our horizons and bring our expertise to new markets.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to sharing more successes with you in the coming months.



PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE

Since the start of 2024, BODE UK & Ireland has undergone a dramatic facelift.

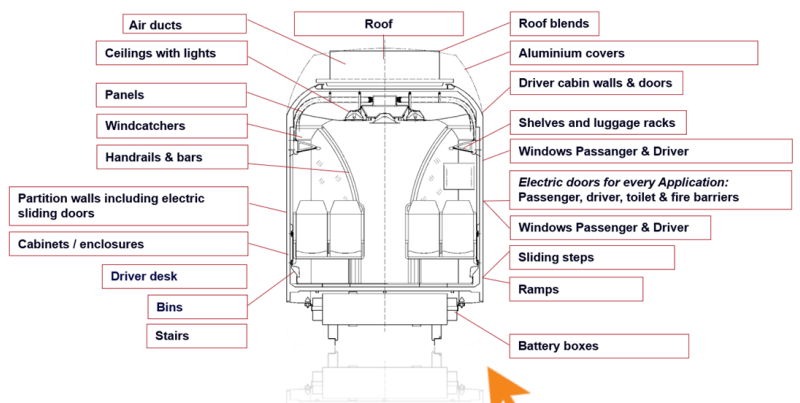
Within the last six months, the company (formerly Schaltbau Transportation UK) has refreshed its strategy, restructured, rebranded and renamed, with a welcome return to rolling stock door systems as its central focus.

BODE UK & Ireland Ltd is a subsidiary of the BODE Group, an OE system supplier and partner to leading train manufacturers, specialising in modular door systems, boarding safety management units, level access steps and interiors for all train types based on proven OE components.

Using the latest designed technology to offer safety, accessibility, monitoring and condition-based maintenance for the extended life of trains, BODE UK & Ireland is supported by a committed team of specialists to deliver the right solutions to customers.

Nick Thomas, Managing Director from January this year, shares his anticipation for what lies ahead, "I am excited to be entering a new era for the company, proudly representing the services and products we have on offer and supporting the customers we value above all".

"Since joining the BODE Aftersales division from an automotive background, I can see the passion and enthusiasm expressed by institutions such as the Rail Forum for advancing the rail agenda and highlighting the needs of its' membership. We had very little by way of the same for suppliers in the Independent Automotive Aftermarket, so I am grateful for their continued support and it's great to be on board with them."



[Click to expand](#)

PREMIUM MEMBER FEATURE



TRESim Flex – signalling the future of training

Hitachi have led the way over the past decade in simulation and signaller training with TRESim which has seen many changes and exciting developments in high fidelity simulation, with models that emulate and mimic 'real-world' scenarios and providing the trainee with an environment which is controlled exactly as a live railway.

Move on to 2024 and the launch of **TRESim Flex** – Offering the value of a realistic offline training environment that accurately replicates operational events. This represents a new, flexible application for Signaller training that combines all the advanced features of the established TRESim with a larger variety of signalling controls and Flexible deployment options.

"The UK rail industry is facing many challenges, including the legacy of the pandemic and changed

working practices" says Denise Watkins, Head of Sales "Constrained budgets and industrial relations disputes have also put a strain on training resources meaning more cost-effective and accessible training options are needed and we believe that **TRESim Flex** offers the solution."

TRESim Flex is universal and will work flexibly – on a tablet, laptop, on the go, or fixed. This 'off-the-shelf' approach gives a cost-effective solution that can be used on any railway line for any region, with a realistic offline environment that replicates operational events – **and all at one fixed low price.**

For more information on this and more exciting concepts, technology and developments being made and how we can help support your business, check out our website on www.hitachi-infocon.com.

Or email for more information or an informal chat: contact_us@hitachi-infocon.com

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>Connected Places Catapult is the UK's innovation accelerator for cities, transport, and places. We run technology trials, innovation competitions and SME accelerators to scale new solutions that drive growth, improve user experience, and support the net zero transition.</p> <p>Alan Peters - Ecosystem Director, Rail and Stations</p>	
	<p>Enspired is a rail consultancy with expertise in decarbonisation and innovation projects on rolling stock. We offer strategic services, technical advice and have plans to develop future engineers.</p> <p>Helen Simpson - Director</p>	
	<p>The Huck range of permanent, vibration-resistant Lockbolts and structural blind rivets offer improved joint performance and optimised assembly efficiency in safety-critical applications.</p> <p>Mark Fenney - UK Account Manager, Howmet</p>	
	<p>Oaklin has a demonstrable track record of delivering value and improving services for Network Rail. We have achieved this through a combination of our innovation, customer-design and commercial advisory services.</p> <p>Danny Kelly - Partner</p>	
	<p>Paragon is a leading cleaning products supplier. As rail specialists, we solve complex train and station presentation issues through consultation, and our rail approved product portfolio is guaranteed to deliver.</p> <p>Kevin Paterson - Head of Business Development</p>	
	<p>Pendyne provide multi-skilled consultancy, specialising in Systems & Safety Engineering, Human Factors and Strategic Consultancy. Our experts understand railway design, manufacture, upgrades and modification, maintenance and operations.</p> <p>Philip Ward - Managing Director</p>	
	<p>An SME consultancy, experienced in modern Fleet and Depot management for the railway, passionate about delivering excellence for the customer, whilst being efficient.</p> <p>Gavin Thomas - Owner Senior Consultant</p>	
	<p>Rail Spares understand how crucial minimising vehicle downtime is and provide the following support services – obsolescence solutions, supply of spare parts and consumable items, material kitting, and coordinating component overhaul.</p> <p>Brian Connell - Managing Director</p>	
	<p>REO specialises in providing advanced electrical components and solutions for the rail sector, including test equipment, transformers, reactors, and inductors designed to enhance the performance and safety of railway systems</p> <p>Stephen Hughes - Director of UK Operations</p>	

NEW MEMBER PROFILES CONT'D

	<p>Synectics, a leading name in global security and surveillance systems, provides integrated station and on-vehicle solutions that ensure a fully connected experience and protect passengers and staff.</p> <p>Gen Bailhache-Graham, Business Development Manager</p>	
	<p>Treadmaster Flooring, part of Tiflex Ltd manufactures high specification rubber flooring for Rolling stock. Global leaders, specifically in fire safety and wear resistance, Treadmaster Flooring complies with all rolling stock floor requirements globally.</p> <p>Jeremy Oliver—Product Manager</p>	
	<p>Winslow Adaptics solve Electronic Component Obsolescence and improve product sustainability by adaption and reverse engineering. We can help with supply issues with semiconductors, passives, mechanical parts, interconnect and test solutions.</p> <p>John Dyson—Technical Sales</p>	

There are also the following new members:

