

Spring 2024 Update

Informing our rail community

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR, WILL ROGERS



2024 got off to a busy start with 429 people registered to join our signature InfraTalk networking event. As popular as ever, InfraTalk set the scene for what will be a packed programme of events in 2024. This will include our usual flagship events such as the Annual Conference and Parliamentary Reception, a number of infrastructure and rolling stock focussed events, online updates covering important issues such as the new Procurement Act and our popular social events. On social events, this year we are planning a different summer event to our usual summer BBQ. Our Summer Gathering networking event is shaping up to be a must attend event for those who want those key networking opportunities with senior people across the industry. It's set to be a cost effective informal alternative to the more expensive formal dinners.

The renewals process for the 2024/2025 membership year is now underway and you should have received details of some changes and new initiatives we have planned from May onwards. Being member-focussed and providing a superior value for money offer are key to our approach. If you have any queries on the renewals process please do speak to one of the team; they will be happy to help.

In February government published the draft Rail Reform Bill which is currently undergoing parliamentary scrutiny. The Bill sets the scene for the long awaited (and still some way off!) reform which our industry so desperately needs.

As we head towards a General Election (and indeed local elections in May) we will be stepping up our political engagement to ensure all parties understand the value of investing in rail and the potential the industry has to support economic growth and decarbonisation. We hope to provide a number of opportunities for you to get involved in these activities over the coming year.

Finally, the end of March sees us saying 'au revoir' to Ben Higgins. Ben joined us exactly 2.5 years ago and has been a very popular and much respected member of the team. Whilst we are sad to see him go, we are also excited for his next chapter as he develops his career in the industry, and we are proud to have played a small part in his journey so far. I would like to personally wish Ben all the very best for the future and to thank him for all he has done for us and his members over the last 2.5 years. We are in the process of appointing a successor to Ben and will provide more details as soon as we can.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'W. Rogers'.

NEW MEMBERS!

We are delighted to welcome 13 new members who have recently joined us, these are listed below. More information about each of them can be found on page 23.

AW Rail Services, Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education, Comms Design, DHL, Evalu8 Software, Forte Engineering, Mace, Mitie, Orion Electrotech, Robert Bird Group, UKRL, Washington Metalworks and Wysis Partnership.

INDUSTRY & POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

The past quarter seems to have gone in a flash and advocating for our members as always is central to our activities.

Below is a snapshot of some of our lobbying and advocacy activity during this period.

Rolling Stock Pipeline

The Rail and HS2 Minister, Huw Merriman MP, responded to the industry's ongoing concerns about the lack of rolling stock orders with a letter to ROSCOs and OEMs in January; this can be found in the [Members' Area](#) of the website along with our response. We also raised our concerns at a meeting with Shadow Secretary of State for Transport, Louise Haigh MP, at a meeting in January.

Electrification

Elaine joined a DfT arranged Ministerial Roundtable on electrification. The session, chaired by the Rail Minister and involving Network Rail, a number of suppliers and the trade associations, generated a wide-ranging discussion around future opportunities, lessons learned from previous electrification programmes and ideas for how electrification schemes could be better delivered. We look forward to seeing what next steps come out of the meeting.

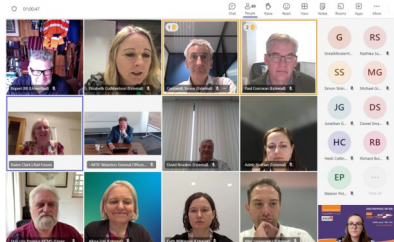
Transition CP6 to CP7

A number of members have expressed concern at the drop off in work from Network Rail prior to the start of CP7. This has been raised with NR colleagues and also with the Department for Transport (DfT) and we will continue to press the point about the need for speedy mobilisation for CP7 works.

Draft Rail Reform Bill

The draft Rail Reform Bill has been published with the Transport Select Committee now confirmed as leading on the scrutiny of the draft bill. We will be submitting a response on behalf of members.

Rail Forum held a special briefing for Rail Forum members with the DfT and Great British Railways Transition Team (GBRTT) on 20th March.



Parliamentary Engagement

Our annual Parliamentary Reception will be held on 22nd April. This event is now full so if you want to attend and haven't registered please contact karen@railforum.uk to be added to the waiting list.

Over the coming months we will be seeking to engage with a range of MPs to take part in member tours and roundtables; if this is something that is of interest to your company, please drop a note to jemma@railforum.uk.

Mayoral Elections

We have hosted roundtables with the Conservative (Ben Bradley MP) and Labour (Claire Ward) candidates for the new East Midlands directly elected mayor position for the East Midlands Combined Authority. We were also joined by the Independent candidate (Cllr Matthew Relf) for an online meeting.

This is a NEW devolved combined authority that is being established so we thought it was important to:

- Put rail on the candidates' agendas from the perspective of the important role we play connecting communities and driving economic growth and decarbonisation
- Ensure they are aware of the breadth and depth of rail related supply chain companies 'on their patch' and hence the number of jobs reliant on rail locally to them



We will meet with other candidates if they wish. We also hope to host further roundtables with directly elected mayors in other parts of the country post the elections.

Engagement with the Shadow Transport Team

In December, the Labour Party launched a review into the delivery of Rail and Urban Infrastructure – we have responded to the call for evidence and also provided some additional follow-up oral evidence. We understand the final report will be issued early summer.

We also met with Louise Haigh, Shadow Secretary of State for Transport in January. The meeting focussed on what Labour's priorities would be should they form the next government along with explaining how the supply chain can best support those priorities and the current challenges and frustrations.

We have also met with Stephen Morgan MP, Shadow Rail Minister alongside Rail Forum members Porterbrook and Alstom in February whilst he was on a brief visit to Derby.

Legal and Contractual Update Events

Network Rail are in the process of moving to NEC4 contract terms. We are hosting a short webinar on 15th April to explain what this means for suppliers – you can register for this [here](#).

We will also be hosting a webinar to explain the implications of the new Procurement Act in May; you can [sign up here](#).

EU CBAM

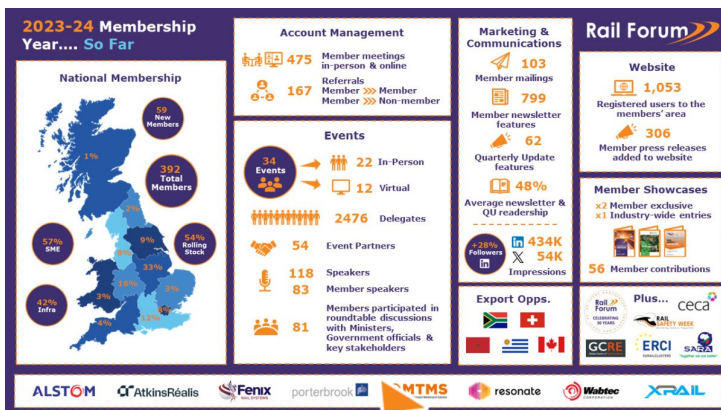
The new EU CBAM (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism) is now live. We have written to all members we think could be impacted but would encourage any member with queries to contact us so we can help.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

What a year! Has it only been a quarter since the last update? Is the membership year nearly at the end already????!!

We have finished the year with a whopping 59 new members and total membership of 392. We really have come a long way since I started in the team in 2019 – not just in membership growth, but in the team, the size and scale of events, the credibility and regard we are held in and the sheer volume and value of services! We really hope you agree that the growth has been beneficial.

Do check out our Infographic, which has some excellent statistics – really providing you with a good view of what we get up to and how we support all our members.



Coming year

We will continue to deliver value for money support, and hopefully you have had a chance to digest our plans for the coming membership year hosted on our handy renewals microsite. We have tried very hard to articulate these changes concisely, setting out the what and why:

- **Simplifying** membership structure and providing three clear membership levels: Member, Premium and Patron
- **Revising** our pricing and providing clear support for SME members (which makes up 57% of our membership)
- **Doubling** our support activities to introduce FOUR new services, on top of our existing services:
 - ◇ Account Management
 - ◇ Lobbying & Advocacy
 - ◇ PR & Communications
 - ◇ Events
 - ◇ **NEW** – Innovation support
 - ◇ **NEW** – Manufacturing support
 - ◇ **NEW** – Export support
 - ◇ **NEW** – Niche networking events hosted at member premises!

Do review all the resources on the microsite and if you have questions, please contact Cat@railforum.uk

You can also find more info on these new elements in this Quarterly Update.

We are really excited for the coming membership year and look forward to members maximising their membership and getting value for money by accessing the services that meet their needs.

Getting your money's worth is simple:

- Talk to your account manager
- Send us your news (news@railforum.uk)
- Attend events of interest

Manufacturing Update

Did you know that 33% of our members are involved in manufacturing? That's why this year, we have introduced a range of new support to demonstrate the breadth and depth of manufacturing taking place here in the UK.

We will be announcing further details of the programme in due course but members can expect greater promotion on our manufacturing capability, closer working with partners and focussed events!

We have also set up a steering group – by the time we issue this QU, the group will have met! We are keen to highlight (and thank) those members involved:



We are keen to ensure a cross section of members involved in the Steering Group – if you feel your part of the sector is not represented and want to get involved, contact Cat@railforum.uk



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE CONT'D

New Networking Events

We are introducing a programme of new networking events this year following feedback from members. These events will be smaller than our main events and rather excitingly will be hosted on member premises. These events seek to deliver networking opportunities around more niche topic areas and will involve a small number of verbal updates from key stakeholders and a tour of premises.

We are already planning the first tranche and members will be invited to nominate themselves for future events!



BCIMO, Light Rail Event tour, November 2023

HR Leaders Group

What a busy first year for this group! With three meetings delivered and an exciting programme for the year ahead, it's really lovely to see our HR professionals coming together and our thanks to Chair, Dan Appleby from Loram UK, and Vice Chair Iain Taylor from CAF Rail for their hard work.

Our first meeting in July 2023 looked at what members are keen to get from the group: updates, best practice sharing and networking were key. These events continue to deliver these requirements providing lots of opportunities for networking using online breakout groups. We heard from Nelsons about Parental Leave and Shoosmiths about Restrictive Covenants plus speakers from NSAR and Rail Competence & Compliance.

In October 2023, Nelsons provided an informative update on employment law, EDI issues and Flexible working practices. We also heard from Intersol Global and Engineering Learning.



Our meeting in February delivered a very informative update on Right to Work from Shoosmiths, and given it was National Apprenticeship Week (NAW), it was a great opportunity to look at how we can work with our customers, suppliers and partners to expand our apprentice experience of the whole railway. CAF and

Northern Rail's experience really was invaluable and it has set a great challenge for members to see how we can all benefit from this approach.

Did you know, we captured and promoted an amazing 58 members' posts in support of NAW2024 on LinkedIn!

Finally we are pleased to confirm the dates for the forthcoming programme:

- 12th June 12:30-2 (online)
Topic: Skills shortages
- 11th Sept - Military is Good for Rail Careers Fair - (in person, venue tbc / timing tbc)
- 6th November 12:30 - 2 (online)
- 5th February 2025 12 - 2 (2 hours) (online)
Topic: Apprenticeships (this falls in NAW)

Finance Leaders Group

Also launched this membership year, our Finance Leaders Group has been busy.

Our first meeting took place in June 2023, with inaugural Chair, Natasha Bingley from Tecforce. We took feedback from the delegates to steer the focus of the group and as with HR, this was to raise issues, share best practice and network with professionals. We heard from keynotes Jobson James Rail and UK Export Finance.

Our second meeting took place in December 2023, and we had the pleasure of hearing from John Gerard from GBR TT, and Mark Wood from Alliance Procurement. We also said goodbye and thank you to Natasha who has moved to pastures new.

Our next meeting, March 2024, was being lead by new Chair, Steve Longmore from Bridgeway Consulting. John Gerard from GBRTT returns - with a longer slot - and we were excited to have both Economist Chris Hare from HSBC and Piers Pye-Watson from Smith Cooper providing an update on R&D tax credits.

Rail Forum **Finance Leaders Group Meeting**
20 March 2024 | Online
Don't miss out on informative presentations from our guest speakers:

Chris Hare,
HSBC Economist

John Gerrard,
Finance Lead

Piers Pye-Watson,
R&D Tax Manager

Chair
Bridgeway Consulting Limited

Event Partner
PKF SMITH & COOPER

Register your place
[QR Code]

We are delighted with how these Leader Groups are bringing together professionals across the industry and encourage you to share with HR and Finance colleagues.

Innovation Update

With a seemingly ever-changing landscape of rail, and increasing pressures on costs and efficiencies, tapping into your creative juices in product and service development is a key strategy. But it certainly isn't easy.

This year, we are delighted to be working in partnership with InnovateUK, and our friend and colleague Ian Evley to help members develop their innovation, help with questions and queries and to share opportunities around funding.

In addition to a dedicated mailer with funding alerts and features from innovating Premium members, we are also working on two new and improved SME Challenges! Definitely something to keep an eye out for.

ERCI Innovation Awards



We are delighted to invite members to participate in the ERCI Innovation Awards this year. This is specifically for new innovations in TRL 7 or higher. First stage is regional – and will be Rail Forum members, due by 20th May 2024. Three applications from our membership will then be submitted (10th June) with results announced in early September and the Awarding Ceremony to take place at Innotrans!

The Application Form can be found on our website [here](#).

Export Update

Things are certainly hotting on up on the export front and with a trying UK market, this is a great strategy for members to consider to support their business growth. With a world of opportunity out there, getting started can be challenging but with nearly a third of members currently exporting, there is lots of experience within the membership to support.

We have established our Export Steering Group, comprising:



This group met up on 28th February and we are working through planning to ensure our export support sits well within the existing landscape –

that's Department for Business & Trade, Department for Transport and UK Export Finance.

If you have suggestions on what support will help you and your export journey, do get in touch with Cat: Cat@railforum.uk.

We have already issued two dedicated Export Mailers – these can be found on the Export Pages in the Members area, including lots of information relating to various markets including Africa, Canada, Sweden, North Macedonia, Switzerland and more.

We have hosted a number of inward visits including from Kenyan Railway Corporation, a number of key EPC Contractors including a technology showcase at UKRRIN with BCRRE and Severn Partnership, and a fantastic tour of the new University Station with WMT, WMRE, WMCA, RPS and SLC Rail.

We also delivered a Canada briefing with Tracey Grindal earlier this month – this was very well attended and demonstrates the interest in this market, and the range of opportunities. Members can find Tracey's slides, which contain a wealth of information on all rail projects in Canada on the Members Area/ Export pages. Members also heard from DBT's Jake Rudham, and UKEF's Paul Tandy, demonstrating a wealth of support you can access when exporting!



Our work with Southern African Railway Association continues and you will have already seen a range of opportunities through this channel.

In addition, we are excited to be a new member of the European Rail Clusters Initiative – there are already developments coming through this channel, with webinars (and critically opportunities to speak!), planning for major activity across all 17 members and the ERCI Innovation Awards have been launched!

GBRTT UPDATE

After quite a roller coaster year (or longer!) at GBRTT, we recently welcomed the publication of the draft Rail Reform Bill, representing the piece of legislation necessary to establish the Integrated Rail Body. Don't be confused, that isn't a change of name from the GBR you've got used to - the term is an umbrella description specific to the legislation. It's because the legislation needs to be future-proof that the organisation that the Secretary of State will pass accountability to for letting operator contracts is described, not named.

Things are already moving quite quickly, with the Transport Select Committee, who is managing a process of pre-legislative scrutiny, already making a call for evidence, with 'interviews' expected to start in April, in particular based on responses received but also talking to key industry representatives.

For us in the Transition Team, all of this has really heightened the level of interest in reform across the sector, which has added a timely boost of energy as we approach the new financial year. For the year ahead we have intentionally pulled back on some activity, with limited work targeted at design of the future GBR structure and more focus on supporting rail decision makers to work in an increasingly whole system way 'in the meantime'. It is more challenging but perfectly possible to deliver industry improvements before legislation.

With GBRTT as a largely secondment based organisation, we

have seen some team members return back to their parent organisations, and at the same time some new secondees are joining us. This change can be both challenging, given how long some of us have been working together on the project, but also exciting, as new people bring in new energy and different skills to what, over that time, has been a constantly evolving environment. As an example, with strong support for the expansion of the Regional Pay as You Go schemes in Manchester and the West Midlands, we have used this change in focus along with secondees with different skills to move forward on a fantastic passenger improvement, which we had not originally planned to implement under GBRTT.

We are continuing to hold events in Derby as part of strengthening links with the community around what will be, when created, Great British Railways' home. It is wonderful that the Rail Forum team, along with the many industry organisations based in and around the city, continue to so kindly welcome us to the Derby railway community (and beyond!).

Paul Harwood, Director of Passenger and Freight Services



X2 MUST ATTEND EVENTS ON **TUESDAY 23RD JULY** AT THE DERBYSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

Rail Forum Annual General Meeting*

13:30 - 17:30 | Hear from the Rail Forum team and Board about what we have achieved and have planned; understand how we spend your money; put forward your own ideas for what we should focus on in the coming months; hear from some special guests over a series of fireside chats.

*Our AGM is open to Rail Forum members & invited guests only.

[Book here](#)



Rail Forum Summer Gathering: Ultimate Networking Event

18:30 - 23:00 | Join us for a two-course traditional hog roast plus additional BBQ style food with plenty of sides and of course that all important summer dessert! This will be an evening of pure networking - with no speeches and no interruptions.

Bring your colleagues, customers and suppliers and maximise that all important networking time catching up with friends old and new from across the industry!

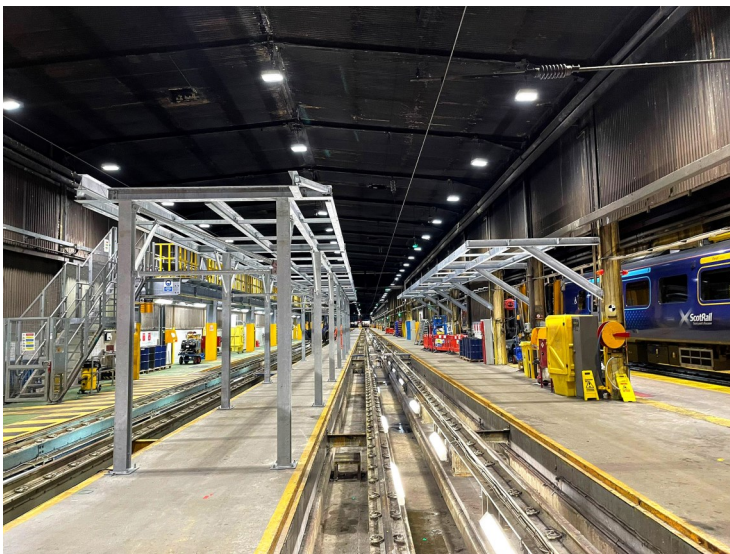
[Book here](#)



MTMS makes company history as its Craightinny gantry project takes shape

Two colossal gantries, each stretching 250 metres – the length of 12 train carriages – are taking shape at one of the biggest and, some say, most historic, rail depots in the UK. Marking our company's most ambitious engineering project to date, this monumental undertaking is transforming this iconic location.

Two months in the making, so far, the project consists of two roof access platforms which, when they are complete, will give engineers at the Craightinny Train Maintenance Centre near Edinburgh up-and-over access to trains to carry out their routine work.



The installation is the latest project in MTMS's growing portfolio of engineering projects, which has included installing walkways, handrails and lighting, in addition to its other work, which includes maintaining carriage wash machines and CET equipment, supplying chemical solutions and the maintenance of the trains and carriages themselves.

Work started at Craightinny at the start of last year as part of a project comprising design, manufacture, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning of two roof access platforms in one of the depot's three sheds, where facility owner Hitachi Rail carries out routine servicing of Class 800 locomotives operated by LNER.

Previously the shed only had one gantry, which did not run the entire stretch of the building, prompting Hitachi to commission MTMS to install a cantilevered access platform down the opposite wall and a free-standing gantry in between the shed's two rail roads.

Both are being constructed from galvanised steel and include cat ladders spaced at regular intervals should personnel need to evacuate the gantry in an emergency. Gates and a clipping-in system ensure personnel are prevented from falling off the gantry, and a complete depot protection system protects



them from the 25,000V overhead line equipment (OLE) above each railroad. The work also includes small civils and all electrical works. Craightinny opened as a carriage sidings in 1904 and now maintains a number of different classes of locomotive for a number of operators running services across Scotland and south of the border.

Alongside the Class 800s, Hitachi Rail also maintains LNER's Class 801s, CrossCountry's Class 220/221, ScotRail's Class 385s and the Caledonian Sleeper's Class 73s.

The gantries are currently being installed and the work is expected to be completed by July, giving Hitachi Rail's train maintenance engineers the ability to access the roofs of two trains in safety, more than doubling the servicing capacity of the shed.

Matt Forst, managing director of MTMS, said: "We are building our business to be able to offer a one-stop-shop engineering and maintenance solution for everything train operators need at their depots and the erection of the new gantries at Craightinny is a perfect example of us putting that ambition into practice.

"We're very proud to have been given the opportunity by Hitachi Rail to build these two gantries, which will offer them vastly improved access to trains in their maintenance shed, leading to faster turn-around times and reducing the hours the trains are out of service.

"It's fascinating to see the gantries taking shape and we can't wait to see them when they are completed later this year."



Based in Moira, Leicestershire, MTMS operates at more than half the rail maintenance depots across the UK, working on behalf of such familiar names in mainline rail as First MTR South-Western Railway, Govia ThamesLink Railway, Arriva and Siemens.

Highlights from Dave

For my third entry into our quarterly updates, I decided to give some slightly different thoughts and reflections. This is not as a result of not having as many really valuable member meetings and site visits or attending less member led events, industry events, stakeholder conferences and more, if anything the exact opposite. However, I very much wanted to give a few thoughts around one of these in particular, which has been front of mind since, particularly when visiting our manufacturing members which around 33% of the membership are.

For the first time in February, I attended the Make UK annual manufacturing conference. Many of you will know Make UK, but for those that don't, very much like ourselves, they are a not for profit trade association, representing members from across all British manufacturing sectors.

The day was really enjoyable but also incredibly thought provoking, with speakers including Alastair Campbell, Rory Stuart OBE, Nusrat Ghani MP, Jonathan Reynolds MP and more. The tone for the day was set quite early with Stephen Phipson CBE the Chief Exec of Make UK, stating that a thriving and successful manufacturing base in the UK is absolutely central to the health of the economy, but also a driver of net zero, growth and the all-round future of the UK.

One key statement made within Alastair Campbell and Rory Stuart's enjoyable double act which followed, was to never underestimate just how much influence and value for any Government, incoming or continuing, key sectors (such as rail) can have and that success comes with efficiently managing the huge balancing act between change and continuity, something I'm sure all of you agree on and have various examples of where more on both sides, is required.

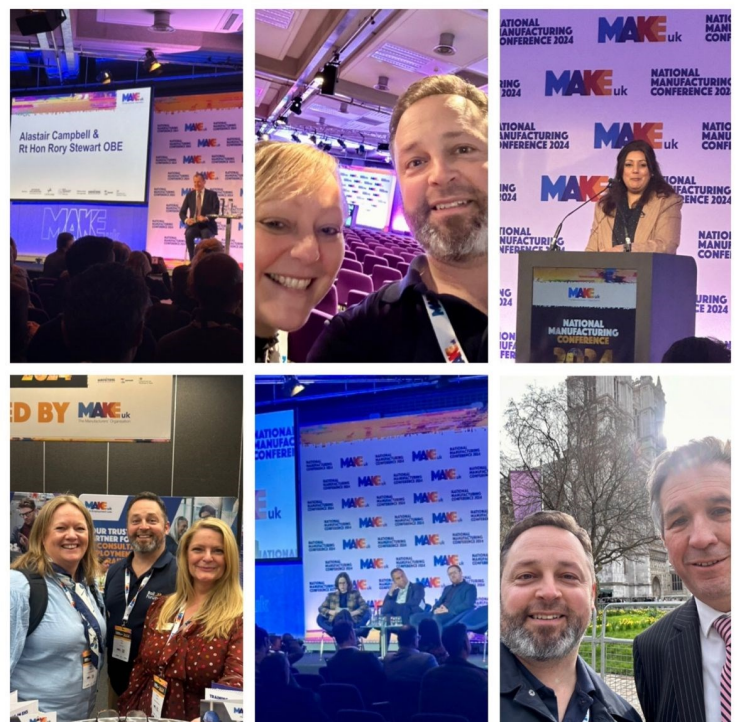
A.I was regularly an area for discussion and just how much influence it can and will have for us all, particularly in manufacturing, and that it will be those companies who don't see it as an alternative or replacement to human work forces, rather the way in which to compliment it and overcome existing challenges, who will be most successful and we have many members already spearheading this.

There was even some discussion around the

word 'manufacturing' itself and that there is almost the need for a new term for the sector, given the word sometimes gives rise to a dated, days gone by view, but for so many in manufacturing and the many Rail Forum members I have seen, it can be the driving force behind innovation and all our futures.

There were, though, two statements that really did lodge themselves in my mind long after the event had finished. One being the statement that the 'Days of outsourcing manufacturing to cheapest option in all corners of the world are over...' That may possibly be the case in other sectors, but from conversations we are still having with members, that is not necessarily the case in our industry and until we can move beyond just focussing upon day one costs, rather than life costs of assets, across both infrastructure and rolling stock, then it is an area where this will continue and the true value and efficiencies that the UK Rail supply chain can bring, will not be realised.

The second, though, was the statement that 'Automotive really is the Jewel in the crown for UK manufacturing' and although a subjective view, it really did give rise to my own thoughts that this is the 'title' the UK Rail Industry should be very realistically and rightly aiming for. A view compounded when I see so many member organisations with such incredible experience, skill sets and innovations, which should undoubtedly make the rail industry the worthy title 'contender' for that 'Jewel' in years to come!!



The Future of Rail in the UK: Legal Challenges and Opportunities

The UK rail industry is transforming as the government plans to create a new public body, Great British Railways, to oversee the network, set fares, award contracts, and manage infrastructure. The plan also promises to increase investment, improve reliability, and enhance passenger experience.

The reform will have legal implications, as it will require changes to contracts, legislation, and regulation.

Some of the key issues are:

- The transition from franchises to concessions, where operators will be paid a fixed fee to run services.
- The transfer of assets and liabilities from Network Rail to Great British Railways.
- The alignment of the legal and regulatory frameworks across England, Scotland, and Wales.

The Rail Reform Bill 2024, introduced in Parliament in February 2024, will provide the legal basis for the reform. The bill will establish Great British Railways, transfer all rail infrastructure, introduce a new concession model, set a national rail strategy, create a new passenger service contract, and simplify the rail regulatory and legal systems.

The issue now of course is timing. In a year where a

SHOOSMITHS

general election is looming and where we can't escape news of poor performance, cancellations (of trains and HS2) and strikes, reform is desperately needed. The National Audit Office's report on Rail Reform, published on 5th March, makes for uncomfortable reading and demonstrates incredibly clearly the crisis that we find ourselves in.

Hopefully the time for talking about Rail reform is now coming to an end and we can actually get to implementing that reform enabling us to collectively work towards delivering the best railway that we can.

In our upcoming podcast series, we will delve into the intricacies of the Rail Reform Bill, exploring future themes related to this subject. Simultaneously, we collaborate closely with the Rail Forum as we prepare our consultation response.



Michelle Craven-Faulkner,
Partner and National Rail Lead Shoosmiths LLP

SILVER MEMBER FEATURE

CAIRNCROSS

Cairn Cross has achieved bronze accreditation for the Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS) Standard as part of its ongoing commitments to safety, efficiency, and environmental sustainability in its logistics fleet.

FORS is a voluntary accreditation scheme recognised in the industry for promoting best practices in fleet management. Adopting its principles, this accomplishment is a testament to the company's unwavering commitment to best practices in fleet management, raising the bar for its operations and demonstrating its dedication to responsible logistics for its clients and partners.



SILVER MEMBER FEATURE



Ibstock

At the heart of building

Ibstock Continues Drive to Reduce Embodied Carbon

Ibstock's range of UK manufactured precast Concrete Cable Troughing now has a verified Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) certificate.

During 2023, Ibstock significantly invested in the resources and software needed to provide full life cycle analysis necessary for EPDs, for its manufactured products.

Recognising the importance of accurate and comparable carbon data, Ibstock's research suggests that more than half of the range's size variants has significantly less embodied carbon than competitor and imported products. Its best-selling Concrete Cable Trough (C/1/9) has been found to have 22% less embodied carbon than equivalent products of a similar size based on A1-A3 GWP.

To learn more about Ibstock's EPDs, please click [here](#).

TEAM UPDATE

Highlights from Bob

Since the last update, Bob has been very busy supporting the membership with site visits and Teams meetings. This included a fascinating visit to OE Electrics in Wakefield to meet up with Lee Walker and MD Tim Hobbs to discuss the merits of wireless charging of mobile phones and improving connectivity; a really important subject to all of us that use the train network! That followed with a good catch up with Claire Judd, who recently moved from sister company TTG to Signature Rail, to learn more about ways they can help to maximise all aspects of train planning both operationally and from an asset management perspective.

Bob also had a really interesting and productive member visit to Armstrong Manufacturing in Coventry and saw first-hand their extensive range of manufacturing capabilities, from metal fabrication to advanced composite manufacturing and all under one roof. Visiting AMRC (Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre) in Sheffield is always a pleasure and thanks to Richard Gardiner for spending the time showing Bob around the extensive research facilities which focuses on improving productivity across all areas of manufacturing.

Bob met up with a number of members during a trip north to the RaisE facility in Goole where BCRRE and Abi Broadley put on an excellent event covering the

wide range of support available for those currently in rail and for those companies looking to move in the rail sector.

A visit to BCRRE in Birmingham for the Rail Partners event focusing on the importance of Cyber Security was interesting and informative, with good presentations from key stakeholders including the rail specialist team at the National Cyber Security Centre who are keen to ensure the rail supply chain is taking the subject seriously.

And finally a big thank you to Anthony Urion and Daniel Menage from NTN Bearings for their kind invitation to be on their table at the Annual IMechE Railway Luncheon in London at the beginning of March - it was a great day as always!



LAST CHANCE TO BOOK! STATIONS: BUILDING TODAY FOR TOMORROW

09:30 – 14:00 | 11 April 2024 | Birmingham

Join us as we discuss in more depth some of the aspects and challenges involved with designing, building, maintaining and operating stations. The objective of the event is for Rail Forum members to learn and crucially understand what opportunities are available with a stations focus in 2024.

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS



Limited spaces left!
Secure your place



EVENT PARTNERS



SPACES FILLING FAST!

RAIL FORUM ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF DAY

All Day | 18 July 2024 | Derbyshire

Rail Forum members are invited to compete in teams of four for the Neil Harvey Memorial Trophy on the picturesque and challenging Championship course at Horsley Lodge.

This year's tournament will be the biggest and best yet – with all profits going to our nominated charity.

Don't miss out, book your individual place or team of four today!



EVENT PARTNERS



[Book here](#)

GOLD MEMBER FEATURE

Railston & Company, providers of customised field service management solutions built around its Collabaro application, would like to announce a recent success, working in partnership with TXM Consult, in digitising unit inspection processes at the Harry Needle Railway Company (HNRC).

Phase one has focused on replacing paper-based inspection processes for 14-day, 28-day and 16-week inspections on thirty 379 class units being held in storage. Building upon our 4 year experience of providing Porterbrook with a unit inspection solution, we have created data collection 'tasks' for the HNRC technician team that enables them to record check results, measurements and create issue records with images. A rules-based auto scheduler for job creation & a Power BI presentation of schedule activity and issue analysis provides the management team with insights such as the frequency of different issue types and whether existing issues are becoming worse.

Subsequent phases will focus on integrating remedial processes into a holistic condition management solution.

TXM Consult, recognised leaders in helping rail businesses adopt best practice in engineering management, selected Collabaro as their technology solution for HNRC because of its flexibility, integrated



reporting and the potential it provides for rapid project deployment. Scott Johnson, TXM's lead for rail operational excellence, commented:

"We were happy to bring Collabaro in for this project based on its feature set, cost and track record with both Porterbrook and with us on a trial project last year with SWR/Alstom. We've got the solution up and running within 30 days and all stakeholders are benefiting from the increased transparency its delivering".



SILVER MEMBER FEATURE



Infinitive Group recently supported a metro system facing earthing failures using machine learning, artificial intelligence, and robust data analysis to identify precursor incidents. Through our expertise, we identified relevant signals in the copious quantities of data produced by the network's systems.

Working with the client, Infinitive Group generated reports and visual dashboards to scan the data efficiently. This identification quantified the issue and allowed for ease of monitoring key signals to enable early response from the engineering team. This resulted in the ability to prevent the earthing issues resulting in service affecting failures.



SILVER MEMBER FEATURE

ZF Services UK celebrates the success of its rail repowering project



Collaborating with Rolls Royce MTU and Irish Rail, ZF Services UK recently upgraded Class 22000 Hyundai Rotem Diesel Multiple Units (DMUs) with EcoWorld transmissions, achieving up to 20 per cent fuel savings and significantly reduced CO2 emissions.

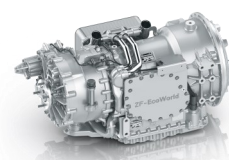
This project, which would save Irish Rail close to €2 million per annum following fleet fitment, highlights ZF's commitment to innovative repowering solutions.

ZF's EcoWorld transmission improves energy efficiency and aids rail operators in meeting decarbonization goals, aligning with government targets for a net-zero rail network by 2050.



supporting rail operators in achieving lower emissions and decarbonisation goals.

ZF's Nottingham Centre of Competence provides overhaul, repair, and preventive maintenance for driveline systems,



FAREWELL FROM BEN

I have some exciting news to share with you that is tinged with sadness.

You may already know that next week will be my last week working for Rail Forum. I will be leaving after the most enjoyable, fun and fulfilling 2.5 years and starting my new role as Business Development Manager at Rhomberg Sersa Rail Group UK on Tuesday 2nd April.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to each and every member for always being so kind, engaging, patient and accommodating. Without you all, the Rail Forum is nothing. I have relished all our interactions over the years whether it has been at events, site visits or during catch up meetings.

Karen mentioned, when we agreed about doing a 'goodbye' section in this QU, about perhaps mentioning some lessons learnt in my time in the role. I suppose I have two.

1) People and relationships are at the forefront of absolutely everything that we do.

My favourite thing about working for Rail Forum has been the opportunity to build rapport and meaningful relationships with countless people from a plethora of companies, Government and key stakeholders. The relationship with members is what makes the Rail Forum what it is, and alongside value for money, is undoubtedly the Rail Forum USP.

2) Events do not just happen overnight!

There are quite a few events, dinners, ceremonies, round tables etc in the rail industry; next time you attend an event, be it Rail Forum or otherwise have a think about a few things please, two examples that would perhaps never even cross your mind.

The date for an event is seldom random, there will have been some thorough research to check if this date has multiple other events on (likely yes), does this date fall into a school holiday, is this date close to a general election, is this date a Monday or a Friday, if this date does fall close to another event is there adequate time between said events so that delegates aren't disrupted too much from their day jobs, is there scheduled industrial action on this date. The list goes on.

The next thing to think about is where the event will take place. More often than not, there will be synergies between the event content and the location. You then need to think about the venue. Does it have adequate capacity, does it have good transport links, does it have hotels near by, does it have in-house catering, is it available on the date required, does it have its own team, what is the security like, oh and most importantly 'sorry, HOW MUCH?'.

These are examples that have helped broaden my appreciation and respect immeasurably during my time at Rail Forum.

It would be wrong to do a goodbye piece and not mention the team. Elaine says 'you can replicate most things, but one thing you cannot replicate is the team' and she is right. It is correct to say the Rail Forum team 'punches well above its weight', an eight person team that when hours are added up equates to six full time people.

Thank you, Jemma, for the constant support with member news in our weekly newsletter, turning my rough drafts into reality, and thank you most importantly for turning my writing into something far more readable and succinct.

Thank you to Karen, the event god, for all the work you do behind the scenes for each of our events. Next time you have really enjoyed an event please take the time to give Karen a quick 'thanks'. Remember, events do not just happen overnight.

Thank you to Sharon for the countless background support and being able to turn your hand at anything to make the lives of the rest of the team easier, you are a star.

Thank you to Bob for the constant words of wisdom and being the fountain of all knowledge when it comes to all things Rolling Stock.

Thank you to the newest member of the team, Dave. Working alongside Dave has been nothing short of a pleasure. You are a real asset to the team and the living embodiment of my comments earlier about the relationship with our members making the Rail Forum what it is. Dave will continue to make the Rail Forum into a powerhouse.

I simply do not have enough time to go through all my thanks to Cat, however, thank you for constantly steering me in the right direction, keeping me on track and offering invaluable advice and guidance. All your support has been hugely appreciated and it will stand me in good stead.

Finally, I would like to thank our boss, Elaine. Working alongside Elaine has been an absolute pleasure. Your dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to the team and our members has set a standard that is inspiring. The positive impact Elaine has had on me goes beyond her professional skills. Your infectious enthusiasm, personality, and generosity has created an environment where creativity, collaboration and success flourish. I will miss deeply learning from you on a daily basis but you will continue to inspire me. Thank you for everything boss.

I will always champion Rail Forum in everything that I do and wherever life decides to take me. Thank you once again for the best 2.5 years.

Ben Higgs



GOLD MEMBER FEATURE

SETTING THE BAR FOR EXCELLENCE IN BRITAIN'S RAIL

As Britain approaches Control Period 7 (CP7) commemorating two centuries of rail service, the enduring importance of rail transport persists despite hurdles in Control Period 6 (CP6) and lingering public scepticism. With Covid-19 disruptions and a substantial £44 billion government commitment for CP7, prompt action by clients and contractors is vital to anticipate and prevent additional hurdles. Despite our team's two decades of rail industry experience from civils through to signalling projects, persistent challenges such as inadequate contract drafting, cumbersome change control, and supply chain issues continue to fuel tension and disputes.



...“SHALL” IS MERELY AN EXPRESSION OF THE PARTIES’ INTENTION AT THE TIME OF CONTRACTING.

PM LAW LTD V MOTORPLUS LTD
[2018] EWCA CIV 1730, 26 JULY 2018

Get the contract draft right! Common issues include lengthy defined terms leading to conflicting amendments, verbose sentences instead of clear statements, improper verb structures, and the overuse of 'shall'. Prioritise clear and concise

communication. Address any draft discrepancies within your control; otherwise, clarify to align the contract with your own understanding and expectations. Move beyond siloed working methods! Empower your team with interdisciplinary project

knowledge and training in change management, specific key deliverables, and performance metrics to safeguard commercial interests, enhance performance, and deliver exceptional service.

DESIMONE

Records, Records, Records! Document facts not feelings. Comprehensive record-keeping ensures objective assessment, legal safeguarding, and effective dispute resolution, diminishing reliance on witness recollection. Consistently maintain professionalism, even in challenging situations, and refrain from using inappropriate language. A tailored cost management system fully aligned to a project Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) will add significant value, ensuring precise cost capture, real-time forecasting, and planning data. Timely submission of information to an Employer strengthens one's position, promoting transparency and accountability across the project lifecycle.

“I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT, I WANT TO READ ABOUT IT!”

STUART BOSLEY
BA (Hons), MCIArb, MIOB, FPD

Navigating this complex terrain, DeSimone's Construction Consulting Services team provides trusted solutions for the UK railway infrastructure. From pre and post-contract advisory to forensic and delay analysis, quantum expertise, dispute resolution, and expert witness testimony, we deliver comprehensive support. As Winston Churchill once said, "To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often." May CP7 herald a resilient and prosperous future for our railway network.

GOLD MEMBER FEATURE

3D Scanning of rolling stock components is a valuable asset for the UK rail sector



DB ESG has been finding increasing value in the 3D scanning of rolling stock components, space envelopes, or entire vehicles. This cutting-edge technology is proving to be indispensable and, we are pleased to share some of the many ways that we have been using this.

Inspecting components for issues, wear, and conformity.

Example: Bulkhead repair feasibility for Wabtec UK.

Cracks were detected on sloped bulkhead plates on HTA wagons during inspection. A repair procedure had already been developed for a different fleet of the same type. The bulkhead and surrounding area on HTA wagons was scanned, to determine if these wagons were sufficiently similar so that the existing repair procedure could be utilised.

Aiding the design and installation of new technologies by scanning space envelopes to help determine clearance requirements and fixing points.

Example: Class 92 battery charger and energy metering for DB Cargo. The entire roof area and a cabinet in a Class 92 locomotive was scanned to help determine the space available for a new battery charger and energy metering system.

Providing a greater understanding of rolling stock.



Example: Cab desk variations, driver training and maintenance instructions for East Midlands Railways (EMR). Each cab desk variant in the Class 170 fleet was scanned to enable EMR to better understand the differences between the 5 class variants, thereby helping with vehicle maintenance, driver instructions and training.

To arrange for DB ESG to 3D scan any problem or obsolete parts, or to discuss any other potential applications, email: daniel.hartley@dbesg.com



TEAM UPDATE

Highlights from Karen

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

During 2023/2024 I have managed to get round to see all of them in person. They are all very different; **Clemtech** specialise in rail recruitment; **Enigma Seven** are a commercial and procurement advisory team, working in international transport operations, manufacturing, asset management and finance; **Mainspring** are a key research and information provider to the light and urban rail industry and supported us with our Light Rail event in November. And finally, **Simply Uniform** is a local supplier of Uniform, Workwear, PPE & Safetywear and provides the Rail Forum with all their branded clothing.

In my role as Events and Marketing Manager I have recently launched our new Events programme for 2024/2025. Please check out everything we are currently planning for the new membership year and keep a look out for new additional events that will be added throughout the year as new topics emerge.

Calendar of Events 2024/2025

Rail Forum

Events are launched to members in the weekly Events Newsletter, issued on a Thursday. All our open events can be found on our website with details on how to book (<https://www.railforum.uk/events/>).

Have you considered becoming an Event Partner? Along with a number of other benefits your logo will be included below. For more information contact Karen.

May 2024	Supported by	June 2024	Supported by	July 2024	Supported by
9 Preparing for the Procurement Act	SHOSMITHS	24 Rail Safety Week Conference - Manchester	CELESTINE	18 Charity Golf Day - Derbyshire	BT Sport
15 TOCTalk - Derby	CELESTINE			23 Annual General Meeting Derbyshire Cricket Club	TTS
				23 Summer Gathering Derbyshire Cricket Club	
August 2024	Supported by	September 2024	Supported by	October 2024	Supported by
		11 Importance of Climate Change in CP7		15 Annual Conference - Doncaster	
November 2024	Supported by	December 2024	Supported by	January 2025	
14 Vehicle Maintenance and Obsolescence		6 Christmas Lunch - Derby		16 Freight Event	
				23 InfraTalk	

Our 2023/2024 Patrons



Click to expand

During the 2023/24 membership year we will have delivered a total of 34 events, with 21 of them face to face.

Our events are often full and have waiting lists. Whilst this is great it means that we are having to look for larger venues to accommodate the growing membership, which obviously comes at an additional cost. The launch of our Partner Packages last year helped cover these costs so we were able to continue to offer events to members free of charge.

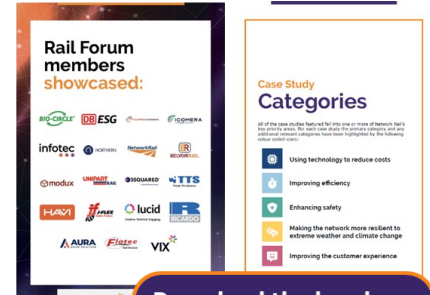
For 2024/25 we have developed a new structure for event partnership and this has been launched alongside the event programme. If you are able to support a future event please get in touch, as without securing event partners for our events, they may not go ahead.

For more information on our events and event partnerships see page 22.

Highlights from Jemma

The past quarter seems to have gone in a flash and advocating for our Members and the rail supply chain has been central. If you haven't already, please take just a few minutes to read our Industry and Political Engagement Update on page 2!

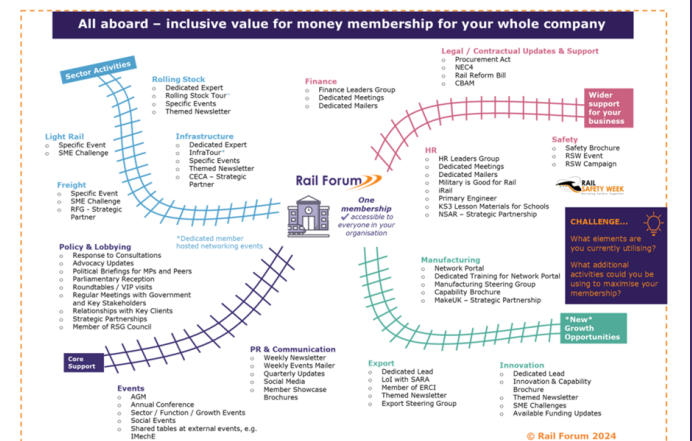
In February, it was fantastic to publish the first edition of our Capability & Innovation brochure which features case studies that span across five key priority areas for Network Rail.



Download the brochure

Following the publication of the brochure, it was great to receive an influx of enquiries into what member showcase opportunities might follow, as members who didn't submit a case study realised what a great opportunity they have missed! We're delighted to share that we're planning more brochures for the new membership year which commences in May, so do keep an eye out in our mailings for these opportunities. As with the previous brochures, we will launch the opportunity in a dedicated member notice, remind members in newsletters including the Quarterly Updates, and our Account Managers will send a specific mailing to their members. We hope to see you grab the opportunities when they appear!

All aboard — a handy schematic to help you review what elements of membership you are using and what additional activities you could utilise to maximise your membership!



Click to expand

GOLD MEMBER FEATURE

Railway Project Services (RPS) has grown every year since its founding in 2017 and now numbers 25 staff. Initially a Project Management business, RPS is developing its services based on needs of its customers to help in any way it can. This has led RPS to setting up storage facilities to co-ordinate materials for its clients and the provision of welfare on-site.

Last year RPS purchased its first welfare vehicle and now number over 10 vehicles in its fleet. It's clients are impressed with:

- 1) The turnaround speed and mobilisation to site
- 2) The standard of welfare provided
- 3) No hidden costs or fees associated with its vehicle fleet

RPS' welfare service sees its vehicles support station staff welfare at football matches in the West Midlands, and enable teams upgrading railway stations in Manchester have somewhere for a break in-between shifts.

Following this growth, RPS has been renovating its fleet. Following focus groups with its customers, RPS' 2024 fleet is ready to support modern types of working and welfare requirements, including:

- Roof mounted solar panels to support low-noise operation on night shifts
- Three-pin sockets for charging laptops and other devices
- Wireless and USB charging

- WiFi
- Modernised refurbished interiors with new tables and seating



Joe Whalen – CEO of RPS

– says of their new welfare fleet “Mobile welfare has long been underinvested in and our on-site colleagues lose out as a result. Our new fleet with three-pin sockets, WiFi and wireless charging means that on-site teams can now access the same level of utility and comfort in the field as they do in the office. We're proud to be playing our part in modernising the provision of welfare for CP7 and beyond.”



Celebrating growth in our reach

We are absolutely delighted to have more than **11,000** followers on LinkedIn, as well as a consistent average readership of our newsletter this last quarter at a staggering **52%!**

Since the last Quarterly Update, we have continued to grow in our Marketing and Communications support, including both our weekly newsletters which have seen 243 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 **520** and our content across LinkedIn and X has had **over 91,200 impressions** in the past 90 days!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENGAGEMENT
WITH OUR POSTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

SILVER MEMBER FEATURE

We are an engineering services company focusing on enabling ubiquitous IIoT sensor platforms for remote condition monitoring of rail freight wagons. We provide bespoke hardware and software systems for predictive maintenance realisation.



One of our 2024 development goals is to deliver an industry first self powered sensor system demonstrator for unpowered freight wagons. In February we spent a day at the BCIMO acquiring data on a Class 08 locomotive. This, along with data from previous experimentation at Long Marston has validated the design concept and points to the way forward.



GOLD MEMBER FEATURE

Tended and MacRail join forces to tackle Yorkshire 3 Peaks challenge for the Railway Children charity

MacRail have announced they are joining forces this May with technology solutions company, Tended, in undertaking the Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge on May 17th 2024, in support of the Railway Children charity.

By teaming up, both companies aim to raise vital funds and awareness for vulnerable children around the world.

The Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge is a renowned endurance test, which scales the peaks of Pen-y-ghent, Wharfedale and Ingleborough in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, spanning approximately 40 kilometres (24 miles) with an ascent of 1585m (5200ft) of ascent.

Adam Crago, Managing Director of MacRail said: "We're looking forward to joining forces with the Tended team this May, and climbing for a worthy cause. By taking on the Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge

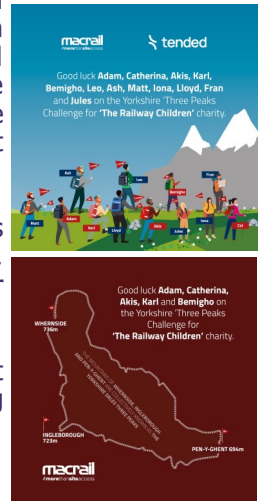
together, we hope to amplify our collective voice and raise crucial funds in support of the Railway Children charity."

macrail

The Railway Children charity is dedicated to safeguarding and aiding children vulnerable to exploitation, homelessness and street abuse. By participating in this challenge, MacRail and Tended aim to inform people about the charity's mission and goals, while striving to make a positive impact on the lives of at-risk children.

To stay updated with the team's training and support the challenge, visit MacRail's LinkedIn page for the latest news.

For more information about MacRail and its ground-breaking solutions, please visit: www.macrail.co.uk.



SILVER MEMBER FEATURE

Mott MacDonald Hosts Network Rail's Developing Professionals Forum

M
MOTT
MACDONALD

Last month, Mott MacDonald hosted Network Rail's Health & Safety by Design – Developing Professionals Forum in its Birmingham office.

With a focus on knowledge and collaboration, the Forum brought together engineers, project managers and apprentices from across the Rail industry in the early stages of their careers. This included Mott MacDonald's Arjan Lali, who led the Forum.

With a view to sharing information and best practice, the Forum included a number of thought-provoking presentations including "Artificial intelligence in safety", "Earthwork emergencies" and "Back to basics tool kit".



One of the highlights of the day was a presentation from Mott MacDonald's James Lowe. James presented

on "Access for all schemes" where he identified an opportunity to further enhance an original bridge design, with a focus on directing users away from the edge. This resulted in an even safer environment for passengers.

This Forum was an enormous success, strengthening safe-by-design knowledge while building cross-industry connections – ensuring our industry has a bright future. Further insight into the day can be read [here](#).

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 **Summer** issue is **Monday 10th June 2024**.

SKILLS

iRail - FREE rail lessons for schools

In January, we launched our [iRail secondary school lesson materials](#). The resources available provide everything that teachers need to deliver a series of rail themed lessons and a project - lesson plans, presentations, exercise materials, videos etc.

There are five separate lessons (all of which can be delivered standalone / in isolation from the others) and a longer project that can be delivered over five lesson periods that requires students to decide on the location for and design of a new railway station.

We encourage all members to make schools that they work with, are local to or have any relationship with aware of the materials available to them.



All the materials can be downloaded from our website.

SCHOOL RESOURCES ▾

Primary Engineer celebrations

Our Primary Engineer schools cohort sponsored by East Midlands Railways, Loram UK and Wabtec held their celebration day this week. As always a great day was had by all with lots of excitement, presentations for the winners and a real competitive spirit between the teams as they put their various designs through their paces.



RAIL SAFETY WEEK

⚠️ **Countdown to #RSW24... Less than 100 days to go!** ⚠️

Monday 24th – Sunday 30th June #RSW24

Rail Safety Week (RSW) is an industry wide and industry led initiative focusing on rail safety for all. The dedicated week aims to promote the vital importance of rail safety across and beyond the industry to the communities it serves – "Building Safety Together".

There's now just 94 days until #RSW24 begins and if you haven't started planning an event or activity, look to the [Rail Safety Week website](#) for inspiration on getting involved and to submit your plans.

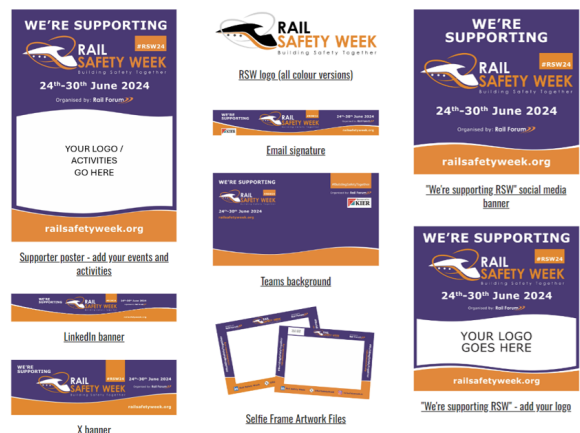
Have you booked your place at our RSW Conference?

Taking place between 09:30 - 14:00 on 24th June 2024 in Manchester, this year's focus is on driving improvement in health and safety and we will consider the importance of both process and people.

Don't miss out, [book your FREE place now](#), and make sure to share the event with your colleagues.

Showcase your support

Make use of the freely available [branded templates](#) to showcase your support. Simply download the graphics from the website, and why not customise them with your logo too!



Thank you to our #RSW24 sponsors

We're delighted to have Kier as a Headline Sponsor for Rail Safety Week 2024 and Infrastructure Support Solutions (ISS) as a Supporting Sponsor.



Rail Safety Week Conference:
Driving Improvement in Health & Safety
– People & Process

09:30 – 14:00 | Manchester

Register today!

Event Partners

Strategic Partner

A message from our #RSW24 Supporting Sponsor

#RSW24

At ISS we are delighted to be a supporting Sponsor of Rail Safety Week 2024. The safety and wellbeing of our staff, both physical and mental, is at the forefront of all our activities, and we consider it our number one priority. Supporting Rail Safety Week helps us to demonstrate that commitment and our aim to achieve a safe and incident free workplace for all.

Brian Madden, HSQE Director

GOLD MEMBER FEATURE

Aura's busy start to 2024 began with several new appointments within our well-established rail team, the successful delivery of both national and international projects, and a diary of exciting works now underway.



Our extensive window film project in collaboration with Alstom saw us complete 500+ carriages for several operators such as SWR and WMT. Window films can have a wide variety of benefits such as temperature control, anti-glare, decorative and protective; particularly important in high-risk areas such as trains and stations. With the aim of protecting the carriages from damage such as scratches and graffiti, all windows have benefitted from anti-graffiti protective film courtesy of our skilled fitters.

Aura will be continuing with maintenance contracts across the fleets, replacing window films as and when required, leaving the glass beneath in perfect condition. In tandem with the protective window film, Aura supplied essential labelling and corporate livery.

A focus on building strong customer relationships and close collaboration between our rail and architectural divisions led to the large-scale LeShuttle rebrand spanning two sites. A variety of building types comprising customer and freight check-in booths, security and staff booths, wayfinding signage and full building wraps were debranded and underwent essential repairs and preparation before new LeShuttle branding was installed. Large-scale out-of-home advertising and digital signage completed the rebrand. The coming months will see our exciting work with LeShuttle continue into the rail sector; follow us on LinkedIn for updates.



SILVER MEMBER FEATURE

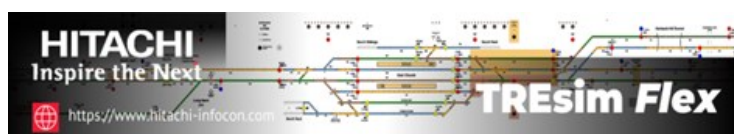
TREsim FLEX – signalling the future of training

HITACHI
Inspire the Next

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.

[Read more here.](#)



Have you signed up for TOCTalk 2024?

May 15 | 09:30 - 15:30 | Derby

We are delighted to announce the following participating TOCs with more expected!

- ◇ Avanti West Coast
- ◇ Cross Country
- ◇ East Midlands Railway
- ◇ Govia Thameslink Railway
- ◇ Great Western Railway
- ◇ Greater Anglia
- ◇ LNER
- ◇ Transport for Wales
- ◇ West Coast Partnership Development
- ◇ West Midlands Trains

Find out more and
secure your place

[Book here](#)

GOLD MEMBER FEATURE

There are two questions which may face you today:

- How do you access new technology to improve the performance of the railway?
- How do you accelerate the adoption of your innovative product into the UK Railway?

Both questions have a fundamental issue at their core: **is the technology fully tested, trialled, approved and fit for use?**

Fortunately, for anyone asking these questions Unipart Rail has an answer. Our approach to all technology is to ensure that Assurance is at the heart of every new product introduction, including our recent work with Thomson Engineering Design Ltd, the premier supplier of attachments for Road Rail Vehicles.

Unipart Rail is Thomson Engineering Design Ltd's exclusive sales and distribution partner across Europe, Asia, New Zealand, Australia and North America. By working in collaboration and combining the unparalleled expertise and experience of both organisations, we are improving the performance of customer operations across the world through the provision of a complete suite of cutting-edge solutions for global maintenance and repair projects, including removal, installation and renewals.



Dan Barnard, Operations Director at Thomson Engineering Design Ltd commented:

"We are delighted to have forged a strategic partnership with Unipart Rail and we believe this partnership is a considerable step forward for the development and growth of our business."

For SME Innovators

We have both the technical and engineering experience to be able to successfully steer innovations through the minefield of testing, finding sponsors, trials, development, specification-writing and the approvals process, as well as having the network, relationships and customer-base that enables us to get your innovation to the right people.

Want to engage with us?
Contact [Harish Kathiresan](#) with your problem or idea today or visit our [Innovation page](#).



GOLD MEMBER FEATURE

TÜV Rheinland Group is delighted to announce that our UK sales team has expanded to include two new Key Account Managers, Dean Cherrington and Scott Thayer. Both Dean and Scott will manage key accounts for several companies within the TÜV Rheinland Rail Group, including TÜV Rheinland UK, Risktec Rail Consulting, and D/Gauge customers.



Their addition to the team strengthens our capacity to serve our growing customer base and meet the escalating demands of the market. They join Stephen Pole and Laura May, our dedicated Business Development Managers, who continue to uphold and



nurture their existing relationships, ensuring high client satisfaction.

This recent expansion of our sales team signifies the ongoing success of TÜV Rheinland in the UK Rail industry and reaffirms our unwavering commitment to providing exceptional service.

This strategic expansion aligns with the growth trajectory of our market, as well as the expansion of our customer base. As we continue to grow, our commitment to offer the highest level of service to our customers remains steadfast. This commitment underscores our position as a leading provider in the industry, and we are excited about the opportunities this growth presents for our customers and our team.

To further simplify contact, a single inbound email address has been established. Any inbound enquiries, for any of the TÜV Rheinland Group entities can be sent to uk-rail@uk.tuv.com, where a member of the team will be happy to assist.

Hollie Hood, Principal Engineer, BAM Ritchies

Hollie Hood joined Bam Ritchies as a graduate geotechnical engineer. She successfully led and delivered slope stabilisation work on the nine day Bearstead rail blockade, the largest blockade ever undertaken in the UK. More recently Hollie led work at Hinkley Point C on some highly technical rock fissure grouting within the cooling water tunnels. The work required interdisciplinary collaboration as the process was tweaked in response to the effectiveness of the grouting work.



The project was shortlisted for the 2023 Fleming Award, Hood is actively involved in the company's drive for business improvement. She has recently written a new departmental management plan, which is making a real difference in raising the bar for health, safety and quality.



**Industry
influencers**

GE has listed 20 of the most influential and inspirational women working in ground engineering today. Their profiles are shared here.



GOLD MEMBER FEATURE

We are now becoming fully immersed in the digital revolution and Digital 4.0 is now dominating business rhetoric as well as our personal rhetoric. The term digital has become the subject of much debate as to what its definition actually is with many academic commentators, business leaders and influencers attempting to frame the term without much success to standardising it. Within this article, the term digital is framed as a cultural behaviour and a way of working that introduces an outline digital framework through the lens of a business that is moving through a digital transformation towards digital as normal.

The Digital Framework

The digital framework is presented as a four-stage process leading to a fifth stage that defines the outcomes as shown



in the figure below.

Stage 1 begins with workforce planning and identifying the technology and market led challenges the business faces that seeks to identify what the success of the human intervention needs to be; rejection, embracement or simply sitting on the fence. The change is enacted upon by leadership who design and orchestrate the change with the workforce (people) in mind; the driving force being training and compliance with legislation.

Stage 2 shifts the focus to organisational strategy and the reinvention of the business strategy. This leads to an

organisational re-design that is underpinned by any technology changes that have been identified and processes and systems also identified for change; all of which are underpinned by the identification of new ways of working. Stage 2 is iterative and often revisits stage 1 to reflect the changes identified and the impact on people as the end-users of change.

Stage 3 then drills down into the funding of stage 2 and the development of a commercial strategy, with a blended focus on the sales process, marketing and revenue models that need to change and be communicated more broadly to the supply chain and clients alike. Once everything is signed off at this stage, the focus can then move on towards innovation and implementation, which will lead to the development of a solutions thinking led mixture of products and services, representing Stage 4 of the framework.

Having moved through the four stages of the digital framework, Stage 5 then defines the outcomes that will be delivered. Whilst the figure outcomes are not exhaustive in nature, they demonstrate a positive disruption to the marketplace and a new sustainable operating model for the business, underpinned by a 'one workforce approach' focused on value driven outcomes that protect both margin and revenue.

Conclusion

This article presents an outline digital framework that could be implemented for digital transformation and change. It does not make reference to the term digital but attempts to encompass interpretations of the term such that it becomes possible to view digital as a catalyst for change. It facilitates a focus on people and a journey towards digital as normal through positive disruption, whose outcome is a new sustainable operating model.

Dr Alexander Finlayson

GOLD MEMBER FEATURE

Communicating transport investment in an election year

Transport is not an end in itself, but rather a means. It allows access to a wide range of resources and opportunities in society, including leisure, employment, education and healthcare. Improving transport ultimately provides better access to these resources and rapidly enhances life choices.

It is quite baffling then, to see how the decisions surrounding transport investment decisions are often so badly communicated; and it is therefore not surprising that a large proportion of the electorate make decisions based on emotions rather than the factual evidence base that our industry generates.

Our government, and our industry, are simply not getting the messaging right.

For better life choices, we need a railway that delivers on three levels: long distance inter-city, mid-distance regional, and local commuter. At present our long-distance network is capacity constrained and will suppress the choice of society in years to come – imagine how our travel choices would be different

today if transport executives in the 1950s and 60s had decided to stop building the motorway network once the link to Birmingham was complete.

SYSTRA

We have to get better at bringing communities with us on the journey to better transport links, and we need to get better at communicating in order to do that. It's not too late to showcase the benefits of the parts of HS2 that will eventually come to life. And it's not too early to ensure people understand the potential for other transport options in years to come.

The time to speak with power, positivity and perspective is now. Whether we're highlighting the potential for mass transit, or promoting the move to electric vehicles, communication is key.

Andrew Dugdale, Market Director
(Rail, Metro, LRT & Highways)
SYSTRA



SILVER MEMBER FEATURE



Hayley Rail Scoop Award at TfL Zero Harm Conference for Gearbox Oil Filtration Project

Hayley Rail, the proven supply chain partner to the rail industry, were presented with a prestigious award at the Transport for London Zero Harm Conference. The company was chosen to receive the



"Outstanding Carbon Reduction Initiative" award thanks to a hugely successful project conducted at the Neasden Depot in conjunction with oil sampling and filtration specialists, HYDAC.

Previously, gearbox oil drains were carried-out at 10,000km intervals and sent for safe disposal. Now, the oil is sampled, and if approved, taken for filtration at the HYDAC laboratory, before being shipped back to site. It's estimated that this recycling process can be repeated up to 30 times.

It has been calculated that this project will save 67.1 tonnes of CO2e per year, the equivalent of taking 134 cars off the road.

To find out more about the project, [view the case study online](#).

SILVER MEMBER FEATURE

Book your Rail Tech Day with HARTING

If you're a Rail Forum member who's looking to stay up to date with the latest in rail connectivity and cabling solutions, you can now request a personalised HARTING Tech Day.

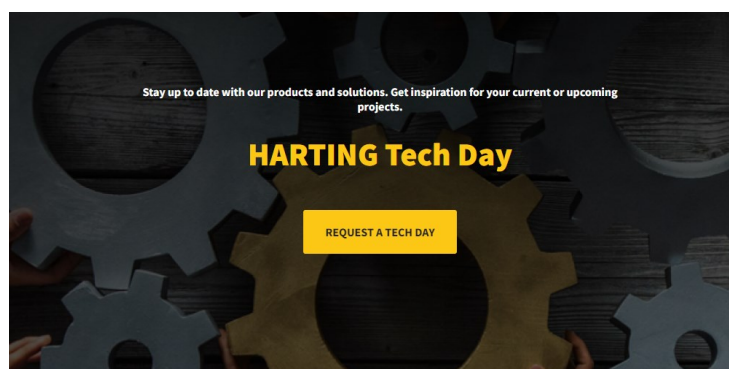


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Available digitally or in-person, our Rail Market Managers will demonstrate and explain the latest rail technology, helping you plan out current or future projects.

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To request your Tech Day, please [visit their webpage here](#).



RAIL FORUM EVENTS

January saw the return of InfraTalk and we heard from Clive Berrington of Network Rail who gave the keynote address. The event proved to be another success with lots of delegates moving around the different floors on our online networking platform.

We have since held 7 events both online and face to face and are now getting ready for our Fleet Performance event on 26th March in York.

During the 2023/24 membership year we held 21 face to face events and 13 online events. We heard from over 130 speakers, more than 80 of which are from our membership.

Future Events

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

<u>Stations: Building Today for Tomorrow</u>	11 April	Birmingham
<u>NEC4 – An Introduction</u>	15 April	Online
<u>Parliamentary Reception</u>	22 April	London
<u>Preparing for the new Procurement Act</u>	9 May	Online
<u>TOCTalk</u>	15 May	Online
<u>Rail Safety Week Conference</u>	24 June	Manchester
<u>Charity Golf Day</u>	18 July	Derbyshire
<u>Annual General Meeting</u>	23 July	Derby
<u>Summer Gathering</u>	23 July	Derby

Here is a list of upcoming events that will be launched in due course. Please hold the dates and look out for their release in our weekly events newsletter on a Thursday.

Importance of Climate Change - 5 Sep

Annual Conference - 15 Oct - Doncaster

Vehicle Maintenance & Obsolescence - 14 Nov

Christmas Lunch - 6 Dec - Derby

Military is Good for Rail - 11 September

Freight Event with RFG - 16 Jan 25

InfraTalk - 23 Jan 25

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 valuable, without it we would not be able to deliver our event programme.

Event Partners 2023-2024



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](#) who can provide you with our Event Partner Package document.

Karen Jackson
Events and Marketing Manager

Events Programme and Partnership Packages 2024/2025

Our Esteemed #RFPatrons

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THANK YOU TO OUR PATRONS!

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

Our Esteemed
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RAIL SYSTEMS

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CORPORATION

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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>DHL are world class Supply Chain and Logistics Experts providing the expertise and capabilities needed to operate successfully in every sector of the Rail Industry through local presence, sustainable and resilient supply chains, and cost-effective logistics services.</p> <p>Anthony Cahill, Business Development Manager</p>	
	<p>Evalu-8 EHS is health and safety software that allows those in rail and infrastructure to Easily manage Health and Safety, create documents in a fraction of the time, centralise safety records, and consolidate multiple system in to all-in-one budget smart EHS software.</p> <p>Adam Cousins, Head of Commercial & Business Development</p>	
	<p>Specialists in delivering power, electrical and mechanical, telecoms, design engineering and civils projects in the rail and metro sectors. Our focus is delivering quality added value engineering across multi-disciplinary projects.</p> <p>Alison Yim, Communications and Account Manager</p>	
	<p>Mace's wide-ranging expertise enables comprehensive support across all portfolio aspects, from major programs and new station delivery to service assurance management. Count on our experts for your success.</p> <p>Michael Jones, Operations Director</p> <p>Mace Dragados are HS2's appointed Construction Partner for Curzon Street and Euston Stations. Curzon Street commenced in January 2024 with a completion circa 2029. The Euston project is currently paused</p> <p>Paul Crouch Supply Chain Manager</p>	 
	<p>Mitie excels in fully integrated IFM solutions, partnering with multiple Rail Providers. Our expertise span Security, Cleaning, PPM, and more, delivering tailored solutions nationwide. We're Delivering the exceptional every day.</p> <p>Kelly Parish: Strategic Account Director</p>	
	<p>We are Engineering Consultancy specialists in a world of generalists. We focus our efforts, skills and experience on extraordinary technical challenges for Clients that value this distinction</p> <p>Thomas Baker, Associate Director (Civil Structures)</p>	

There are also the following new members:

AW Rail Services Ltd



BCRRE

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

BCRRE

Comms Design Ltd



Orion Electrotech



UKRL



Washington Metalworks Ltd



Wysis Partnership

