



The Railway Forum

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Press Release

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HIGH SPEED 1 – ON TIME – ON BUDGET – WHERE NEXT?

The opening of High Speed 1 to the magnificent St. Pancras International in November 2007 has rekindled the debate about the advantages of domestic high-speed rail within Britain so that all parts of the network can enjoy the benefits of being part of the European High Speed Rail Network.

The Railway Forum will be hosting a seminar at Thinktank, Millennium Point, Curzon Street, Birmingham, B4 7XG on the morning of 13th June 2008 to address some of the issues associated with high speed rail with an emphasis on the benefits of high speed rail to the economy of the West Midlands.

Key speakers at this event are Tom McCarthy from Bechtel, Richard Brown (Eurostar); Richard Eccles (Network Rail); Michael Hayes (Atkins); Jim Steer (Greengauge 21) and Birmingham City Council.

Paul Martin, Director-General of The Railway Forum said:

“Now we have high speed from London to Paris and Brussels it is now the time to start planning, so the rest of the country can also benefit. High Speed 1 has not only dramatically improved journey times but has also acted as the catalyst for regeneration of the Thames Gateway and there is no reason why the improved journey times associated with high speed rail could not do the same for the rest of Britain.”

For further information about this event including the full programme and how to book please contact Mark James or Hasmita Patel at The Railway Forum on 0207 259 6543 or railinfo@railwayforum.com You can also see details on our website www.railwayforum.com

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Notes to Editors:

1. Details on the Railway Forum can be found at www.railwayforum.com

The Railway Forum is an industry wide body sponsored by the majority of the train operating companies as well as Network Rail, all three major rolling stock leasing companies, the Passenger Transport Executives, Transport for London, most of the infrastructure companies and many manufacturing and other businesses serving the UK rail industry. In all we have over 50 members. Our key role is to act as a think tank, information exchange and point of contact for those committed to and interested in our industry. For more details visit www.railwayforum.com

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