



The Railway Forum

Press Release

12 Grosvenor Place
London SW1X 7HH

Telephone: 020 7259 6543

Facsimile: 020 7259 6544

email: railinfo@railwayforum.com

For immediate use

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BUILDING ON SUCCESS: RAILWAY FORUM ISSUES *BUILDING THE RAILWAY FOR THE FUTURE 2005*

Each year The Railway Forum issues a package of publications reflecting key developments on Britain's railways. This year's package targets the General Election campaign and comprises two publications:

- *A successful future for the fastest growing railway in Europe* – a 'manifesto' for Britain's railways
- *Cost & performance: sustaining confidence in the long term* – the 2005 update demonstrating the industry's improving cost and performance trends

'Despite some setbacks, Britain's railways have made remarkable progress since the last General Election', says Adrian Lyons, Director General, The Railway Forum. 'We are now the fastest growing railway in Europe and demand seems to be increasing faster than any other mode of transport. Reinvigorating the railways after decades of decline needs national support if we are to meet our full potential. This is not just a question of funding but also one of getting strategies right. Whatever the outcome of the General Election we

hope that delivering a robust transport strategy in which rail plays a full part will be a key commitment of the new Government.'

-Ends-

Notes to Editors

1. The Railway Forum is an industry-wide body sponsored by the majority of the train operating companies, Network Rail, all three major rolling stock leasing companies, the Passenger Transport Executives, London Underground, most of the infrastructure maintenance companies and many manufacturing and other businesses serving the UK rail industry. Other complementary railway industry bodies including The Railway Industry Association and ATOC are also 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.
2. This is the fifth annual edition in the *Building the railway for the future* series that considers the key strategic and operational issues we must face to ensure that our railways play their full part in sustaining economic growth, promoting social inclusion and protecting the environment.
3. *Building the Railway for the Future* 2005 issued today by The Railway Forum, comprises a 'manifesto' for the railways *A successful future for the fastest growing railway in Europe* which outlines what needs to be done to ensure our railways meet their full potential. As cost and performance remain an immediate priority a 2005 update *Cost and performance: sustaining confidence in the long term* is also issued. Both these publications are accompanied by a small wallet-sized information card and are available from www.railwayforum.com.

For more information call:

Adrian Lyons at The Railway Forum

Tel: 020 7259 6543 or 07775 992348 Fax: 020 7259 6544

Email: railinfo@railwayforum.com