



The Railway Forum

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Press Release

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For immediate use

RAILWAY FORUM CALL TO CELEBRATE RAIL ACHIEVEMENTS

The Railway Forum has called on the industry to celebrate its achievements in the run-up to its 10th Innovation Awards.

Speaking at a meeting of the Forum's Shadow Council, made up of the future leaders of the industry, Paul Martin, the Forum's Director General said: " As we approach the 10th Forum Innovation Awards on 27 June, our industry stands better placed than it has been for decades. The last few weeks have shown just how far we have come since privatisation: Network Rail has announced £2.4 billion of enhancements to our infrastructure, in addition to routine maintenance work; the Government has committed itself to providing one thousand additional carriages to help meet the capacity challenge; Eurostar has announced best practice plans to lead the industry on environmental sustainability and all the signs are that the Crossrail project is on track, adding to Transport for London's already considerable achievements"

He added: "These are exciting times to work in Britain's rail industry. We have the fastest growing railway in Europe, with increasing public understanding that rail is by far the most environmentally friendly way to travel. The challenges that we face are those arising from success: increased passengers and freight. It is enormously re-assuring that all of the players: Government, Opposition parties, Network Rail, Transport for London, the Train Operating companies and all of the other parts of the industry are working so well together to meet those challenges. The Forum's 10th Innovation Awards on 27 June will be a showcase for the industry's inspiration. The subsequent announcement of the Government's long term rail strategy, together with the High Level Output Statement and the Statement of Funds Available will hopefully demonstrate the political commitment to recognise both the inspiration and the aspirations of Britain's rail industry. For the Railway Forum that means, in the short term: longer trains and platforms and intelligent signalling to maximise track usage, and in the longer term: high speed rail line(s); extended electrification and further sustainability gains."

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Notes to Editors:

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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