



The Railway Forum

Press Release

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For immediate use

RAILWAY FORUM LAUNCHES HIGH SPEED BRITAIN WEBSITE

To reflect the increasing interest in the case for high speed railways The Railway Forum today launches a new website www.highspeedbritain.com to act as a focus for those who wish to advance the case for high speed rail links in Britain.

Initially the website will act as an online petition for those who want to commit themselves to developing the policies that will lead to the creation of a national high speed network across the country. Plans are already underway to link with other websites promoting this idea and, ultimately, to provide a range of essential data and briefing material on high speed rail.

This is now the time for all who support this big idea to help make the case. The time is just right: the Government has made a General Election manifesto commitment to look at the case for a new North-South high speed link and Sir Rod Eddington is conducting a uniquely important review of our longer-term strategic transport needs.

‘It sometimes seems as though we have lost the confidence that we can build big rail schemes that will make a substantial contribution to our economy, social inclusion, the environment and regional regeneration’, says Adrian Lyons, Director General The Railway Forum. ‘In fact the evidence of Channel Tunnel Rail Link is that we can do it. The challenge for all those who want to see high speed rail linking our cities is to help make the case – signing up to the petition at www.highspeedbritain.com to pledge support is an essential part of this.’

-Ends-

Notes to Editors:

1. The Railway Forum is an industry-wide body sponsored by the majority of the train operating companies including Eurostar, 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. 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 the rail industry.
2. www.highspeedbritain.com is initially launched as a website to enable people to pledge their support for high speed rail in Britain. Over the next few weeks and months it will expand to provide a wide range of information and contacts for those who wish to help make the case for high speed rail. Other sites that will be linked include the Scottish Association for Public Transport's www.fasttracknorth.org.uk.
3. The Forum welcomes the Institution of Civil Engineers report *The missing link: A report on high-speed rail links in UK* launched today. For further details visit www.ice.org.uk.
4. A transcript of the joint Railway Forum/Scottish Association for Public Transport *Fast Track: High speed rail for Scotland* seminar held in Glasgow on 9 December is being prepared for publication early in the New Year. It was a most interesting and informative day. If you did not attend but would like a copy of the transcript please contact the Railway Forum (details below).

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