

17 December 2013

GB Railfreight contract extension with Mediterranean Shipping UK

GB Railfreight has today confirmed a three-year extension to their contract with Mediterranean Shipping Company UK (MSC UK). The previous five-year contact was due to expire in February 2014, and this new contract will now end in January 2017.

GB Railfreight will continue to run three daily services for MSC UK from the Port of Felixstowe: two to Hams Hall in the West Midlands and one to Selby in North Yorkshire.

However, a new agreement has been reached that will see additional capacity being added to these train links by extending all three trains to up to 610m in length – allowing them to carry an average of an additional 54 containers per day.

This new deal exemplifies GB Railfreight's commitment to developing long-term relationships with its customers, offering them flexibility and innovation in order to best meet their clients changing needs. It was only last year that GB Railfreight celebrated their 10-year partnership with MSC UK by naming a Class 66 locomotive 'Sorrento', after the home town of MSC founder Mr Aponte.

It also provides another boost to GB Railfreight's intermodal service and underpins their growth aspirations at the Port of Felixstowe.

John Smith, Managing Director of GBRf, said:

"We have been working with the Mediterranean Shipping Company for over 10 years and this contract extension is evidence of the excellent working relationship we have with them.

"We pride ourselves in our ability to innovate in order to meet client needs and the provision of additional train capacity is an example of how we will deliver for MSC over the period of this contract

"GB Railfreight is growing its intermodal container business, especially at Felixstowe. However, in order to reach our potential, we need an integrated Government approach to expand rail capacity in and out of our ports in order to meet Britain's import/export needs and deliver the full benefits of British rail freight."

Dan Everitt, Managing Director at MSC UK, said:

"We are extremely pleased to be extending our contract with GB Railfreight after over ten years of working together.

“As a company, we move on average 2,000 containers on rail networks every week. It is therefore fundamental to our operations that we have strong working relationships with our suppliers to enable us to continue providing this reliable service to our customers.

“Our decision to extend our contract for an additional three years is a testament to the service we have received throughout our relationship and we look forward to continuing our successful partnership with GB Railfreight.”

Notes to editors:

1. GB Railfreight is one of the UK’s leading rail freight companies. It operates around 650 trains per week in the UK and is the main transporter of coal on the rail network and the only rail freight company with regular contracts to move biomass.
2. Mediterranean Shipping Company UK (MSC UK) is one of the world’s leading shipping lines, offering global container services on a network of over 200 routes.