

PRESS RELEASE



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Crossrail contractor awards major contract to GB Railfreight

Crossrail tunnelling contractor BFK have awarded GB Railfreight (GBRf) a major contract to move over one million tonnes of excavated material from a tunnel portal at Westbourne Park in west London to Northfleet in Kent.

The two-year contract, starting in spring 2012, will see GBRf run more than 860 class 66 hauled trains of JNA bogie ballast box wagons between west London and Kent.

GBRf MD John Smith expressed his delight at the contract win. He said: *"I'm delighted that GBRf has secured this major contract with the Crossrail project. This is an important win for GBRf as it shows yet again that we have the capability and resources to work on major projects and deliver a quality service."*

The deal is also great news for the environment with rail removing at least 50,000 lorry movements from central London.

GBRf plans to use up to two rakes of 27 JNAs, which it will hire from VTG. Two class 66 locomotives will be dedicated to the Crossrail project contract.

The freight haulier expects to run its first trial train in February from London to Northfleet and will involve using a recently reinstated freight link from the North Kent Line to test the track for the first time.

The new freight link has been re-instated specifically to assist with the removal of excavated material from Crossrail's western tunnels. The project to reinstate the freight line was overseen by Lafarge who own the Northfleet site. Excavated material from the Crossrail western running tunnels will be stockpiled at Northfleet pending transfer by ship to regeneration sites including a new 1,500 acre RSPB nature reserve at Wallasea Island in Essex.

When the contract begins, excavated material from the tunnels will be loaded into wagons by conveyor belt at Westbourne Park and taken to Northfleet.

Note to Editors

Woodhouse Communications issued this release on behalf of GB Railfreight.

For more information contact Kaye Inglis of Woodhouse Communications on 01444 221000 or email kaye@woodhousecommunications.co.uk

About GB Railfreight

GB Railfreight (GBRf) is one of the UK's leading specialist rail freight companies, operating a wide ranging portfolio of intermodal and bulk traffic services in commodities such as coal, petrochemicals, and construction materials. Its innovative approach and focus on flexibility, reliability and customer service has led to a number of recent significant contract wins and to a raft of rail industry awards.

GBRf is part of Europorte, the rail freight arm of GET (Groupe Eurotunnel SA).

About Crossrail

Crossrail will be a new high-frequency railway from Maidenhead and Heathrow in the west, through major new rail tunnels under central London to Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the east. Crossrail is Europe's largest infrastructure project.

BFK (BAM, Ferrovial, Kier) JV were awarded the contract by Crossrail Limited to construct the western running tunnels between Royal Oak and Farringdon.

Crossrail will be the largest single addition to the transport network in London and the South East for 50 years, with a capacity double that of the Jubilee line. Up to 24 trains an hour in each direction will operate between Paddington and Whitechapel during peak periods, and will increase the public transport rail network capacity in London by 10 per cent. Crossrail services will commence in 2018.