

PRESS RELEASE



25 October 2011

GB Railfreight wins substantial steel contract with SSI

GB Railfreight (GBRf), the award winning freight haulier, has won the contract to transport molten iron and steel slab in Sahaviriya Steel Industries' (SSI) newly reopened steelworks at Lackenby, on Teeside.

The ten year contract will see GBRf operating all of the internal rail operations at the Lackenby plant. It will also involve maintenance of track and equipment, and the construction of new unloading bays.

The work involves the movement of molten iron and finished product around some 70km of track at the site. This will involve the recruitment of 35 staff and the purchase of eight internal locomotives.

Two new sections of track will be installed – first the unloading bay, which will bring wagons loaded with scrap into the steel production facility, improving the capacity and efficiency of the scrap metal handling. Secondly, there is an extension to the track that goes through the hot steel slab production bay, where the finished product is moved from the continuous casting line for cooling prior to shipment. The new extension will increase the operational efficiency of the movement of steel from the continuous casting line.

On Monday 24 October GBRf ran a 66 mainline locomotive through the Redcar site as a trial to verify the routes used. SSI provided escorts for the locomotive and opening the lines specifically for this purpose.

Tata Steel ceased production and closed the works some 18 months ago, before Thailand-based company SSI bought the site. The works is currently being completely refurbished and is due to recommence operations at the end of this year.

The plant will produce 3.5 million tonnes of steel per year, with the finished product being exported to Thailand.

GBRf Managing Director John Smith said: *“GBRf winning this work is a huge credit to everyone who works here as SSI were very impressed with the people they met through the tender process and the attitude of the business in general. Particular credit goes to Tim Robinson, who led the bid, supported by Mick Goodman and Bob Tiller.*

“This contract is testament to GBRf’s continued diversification and commitment to moving into new areas.”