

PRESS RELEASE



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GB Railfreight to provide test train operations for Class 800/801 trains for the Intercity Express Programme

Hitachi Rail Europe has today announced that it has signed a contract with GB Railfreight to provide train operations to facilitate the testing and commissioning of the Class 800 and Class 801 trains for the Great Western Main Line as part of the Intercity Express Programme (IEP). As part of the contract GB Railfreight will provide locomotives for transit movements and train crew throughout the test programme.

The contract will allow for type conformance and performance testing. This includes testing of pantograph performance, internal and external noise testing, as well as tests for running characteristics and braking performance. Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) testing will ensure that the Class 800/801 trains will not interfere with the infrastructure and other trains operating on the lines.

Keith Jordan, Managing Director, Hitachi Rail Europe said: *"Hitachi Rail Europe is dedicated to delivering the Class 800 series trains into service on schedule and for this, it is highly important to have the right partner to support our testing programme. GB Railfreight have shown that they align well with the Intercity Express Programme requirements and locations, offering a highly proactive response to the scenarios we need to test."*

John Smith, Managing Director of GB Railfreight, said: *"The Class 800/801 units for the IEP programme represent a major step forward in the continued modernisation of the UK railway system. GB Railfreight look forward to working with Hitachi to ensure that these trains are tested and commissioned so that they are ready to deliver better services for UK rail passengers."*

GB Railfreight will support Hitachi Rail Europe through the compatibility process in preparation for the start of testing in March 2015.