

PRESS RELEASE



31 October 2013

The Rail Freight Alliance launched

Today, the UK's five major Rail Freight Operating Companies and Network Rail are pleased to announce the formation of The RailFreight Alliance.

The formation was endorsed by the Rail Delivery Group after a framework and set of strategy objectives were agreed by the Rail Delivery Group's Freight Group; with a view to delivering a sustainable and flourishing rail freight sector in the UK:

- Delivering whole-industry cost savings,
- Developing smarter use' of the network, and
- A sustainable charging framework for freight.

Peter Maybury, Chair of the RDG Freight Group said: *"The creation of The Rail Freight Alliance is an important step-forward for the rail freight sector. The Alliance will give the rail freight sector a stronger voice in the rail industry and give an opportunity to resolve some significant issues that remain for the sector."*

Paul McMahon, Freight Director, Network Rail said: *"I'm delighted that The Rail Freight Alliance has been agreed. Greater collaboration between the operators and Network Rail will enable us all to better address the challenges and the opportunities that the sector faces in the next five years and beyond."*

Note to Editors:

1. The five Rail Freight Operating Companies are DB Schenker Rail UK, Freightliner Group, GB Railfreight, Direct Rail Services and Colas Rail.
2. Rail freight has grown by 60% since privatisation in 1996 and is forecast to double by 2043.
3. Rail freight directly contributes £870 million per annum to the UK economy and circa £5.9bn per annum indirectly through the supply chains that it supports, six times its direct turnover.
4. Rail freight transports over 100m tonnes of goods – worth around £30bn per annum.
5. The sector saves an additional 6.7 million lorry journeys on Britain's road network per annum – 1.4 billion lorry km or the equivalent of an additional 13,000 lorries travelling the distance between London and Manchester every day of the year.