

5 November 2013

London transport icons past and present celebrated in the unveiling of bespoke locomotives to mark London Underground's 150th year

To mark the 150th anniversary of the London Underground, and celebrate GB Railfreight's new partnership with London Transport Museum, two locomotives with new liveries and names have been unveiled and dedicated to Transport for London Commissioner, Sir Peter Hendy CBE, and Harry Beck, the designer of the original Tube map.

The locomotives were unveiled during a ceremony at London Victoria station by special guests Sir Peter and Harry Beck's biographer, Ken Garland. Together they represent the achievements of London's transport system past and present.

Harry Beck was the graphic designer who dreamed up the modern Tube map on an electrical schematic in 1931 [1]. Since becoming Commissioner of Transport for London seven years ago, Sir Peter has worked to make London a world leader in integrated and innovative transport delivery, and played a key role in preparing for the successful operation of London's transport for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The two stunning new liveries were designed by London Transport Museum's in-house design team as and put onto two of GB Railfreight's existing locomotives. Following the naming, they will be used for freight services which support the construction of Crossrail and the renewal of the London Underground infrastructure on the Metropolitan, District and Hammersmith and City lines.

John Smith, Managing Director of GBRf, said:

"We are delighted to mark the great successes of the London transport system over the past 150 years. Today was a very special occasion for everyone involved in celebrating London's achievements both past and present.

"Quietly, behind the scenes, rail freight continues to play a pivotal role in the success of the Capital's operations – clearing the tracks for commuter trains and working on the construction of major infrastructure projects, such as Crossrail, that will define the future of the transport network."

Sir Peter Hendy CBE, London's Transport Commissioner, said:

"This year has been an illustrious one for the Tube as we have celebrated our 150th anniversary and the enduring vital role of the world's first underground rail network. I would like to thank all of our staff, who work tirelessly to keep London moving every day, and I would also like to thank GB Railfreight for helping us mark the important milestone of 150 years serving London and its people."

Freight and logistics are vital in ensuring London's businesses keep functioning, and, as such, are a very important part of the transport sector. **Director of London Transport Museum Museum, Sam Mullins, said:**

“As a charity we rely on the generosity of Corporate Members like GB Railfreight to continue our work bringing past, present and future visions of London transport to life. Today's event marks the start of an exciting relationship with GB Railfreight and a foray into the freight industry, so heavily involved in London's transport history. We are very proud of the two new designs on the locomotives that represent GB Railfreight's support of the Museum.”

Notes to editors:

1. GB Railfreight first dedicated a locomotive to Beck in 2007.
2. 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.
3. The Harry Beck locomotive number is 66721. The Sir Peter Henty locomotive is numbered 66718.

About London Transport Museum

Situated in the heart of Covent Garden and filled with stunning exhibits, London Transport Museum explores the powerful link between transport and the growth of modern London, culture and society since 1800.

Historic vehicles, world-famous posters and the very best objects from the Museum's extraordinary collection are brought together to tell the story of London's development and the part transport played in defining the unique identity of the city.

London Transport Museum is an educational and heritage preservation charity. Its purpose is to conserve and explain the history of London's transport, to offer people an understanding of the Capital's past development and to engage them in the debate about its future. The Museum's charity number is 1123122.

www.ltmuseum.co.uk