

June 2018

Here your Rail Forum team will keep you up to date on the RFMs recent activities, progress and upcoming events!

Message from our Chair, Paul Francis



Welcome to the second quarterly update of 2018.

At our AGM on 5th June members voted in favour of a number of important changes to the Rail Forum East Midlands. These include a change of name to Rail Forum (trading as Rail Forum Midlands) together with

changes to our Memorandum and Articles of Association allowing for a broader industry led Board of Directors and the creation of a number of Operational Delivery Groups reporting to the Board. These Delivery Groups will provide additional opportunity for members to get involved and help drive some of our key activities in:

- Business Growth and Support for SMEs,
- Communications & Events for Members,
- People, Skills and Diversity and
- Political and Stakeholder Engagement.

Each group will be Chaired by a member of the Board and if you would like to find out more or get involved please contact Elaine for further information.

The change to Rail Forum Midlands aligns us geographically with the Midlands Connect and Midlands Engine government initiatives, strengthening our collective voice to be better heard in Westminster as well as at a regional level. We are currently in the process of rebranding and you will soon start to see the new logo and name on our literature and website!

Over the last three years or so we have transformed the organisation into a highly-respected business focused on a set of clear priorities aimed at helping our members' businesses to succeed. Our newly strengthened Board will ensure that we build on that work and I am delighted to welcome the following new companies onto the Board: EliteKL, Siemens, SNC Lavalin, Tarmac, Tecforce, Wabtec and Yellow Rail. These companies join Bombardier, Datum, East Midlands Trains, Geldards, Inside Out Group, Porterbrook, Resonate and TidyCo to represent you and set the future strategy for the Rail Forum Midlands (RFM) organisation.

Finally, I would also like to personally welcome our new members; AEGIS Engineering, A W Hainsworth & Sons, EnableID, Flotec Industrial, Hübner UK, Kilborn Consulting and the University of Birmingham. We look forward to working with you in the coming months.

Paul

Rail Forum AGM – 5th June

Over 50 members gathered at the Derby Conference Centre for the AGM on 5th June. Proceedings began with a guest address from Robin Webb, Deputy Director in the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy. Robin shared current progress on a proposed sector deal for the rail industry together with key challenges and priorities for his department. Members then voted on a number of important resolutions that pave the way for us becoming Rail Forum Midlands with an expanded Board of Directors. The official business was followed by Elaine Clark, our General Manager who gave a quick run through of key activities and events from the last year. East Midlands Trains then went on to explain some of the background and planning associated with the current Derby Resignalling project. Following the meeting attendees enjoyed drinks and canapes whilst networking with other members.

Thank you to both **Datum and TrainFX** who offered site tours of their premises for interested delegates prior to the official AGM.

Porterbrook Supplier Conference



RFM was delighted to be asked to support Porterbrook Leasing with arrangements for their first Supplier Conference which was held on 13th June. Over 200 people attended the event, representing existing and potential suppliers, trade associations, government departments

and transport authorities together with a fantastic representation from the Porterbrook team. The conference featured presentations from Porterbrook senior executives who outlined the company's commitment to collaboration and partnership. The conference concluded with the opportunity for attendees to informally discuss with senior executives their ideas on how Porterbrook could improve customer-experience, maintenance and reliability, as well as suggestions on innovative products that would keep the company's fleets attractive to both customers and passengers. Porterbrook have undertaken to review all the submitted ideas and will provide feedback on next steps to each of the organisations that contributed to the event.

Using Data and AI to Make the Digital Railway a Reality

On 18th June a group of RFM members met with Microsoft at their London offices to take part in a workshop to discuss current thinking and developments in data analytics and Artificial Intelligence (AI). The group initially focussed on the opportunities provided by the potential rail sector deal but quickly expanded the discussion into much broader areas where AI could drive improved productivity and performance across many aspects of the industry. We are now pulling together the ideas and issues which flowed out of the workshop to determine next steps. To find out more contact elaineclark@midlandsrail.co.uk

Rail Sector Deal

As many of you will be aware industry representatives have been working on a proposal for a rail sector deal since last summer. A significant number of companies have committed resource to help develop further detail for the next iteration of the submission to government (due in July) with task and finish groups established under the headings of

- Accelerating the Digital Railway

- Using Data to Improve the Customer Experience
- Developing a Sustainable Rail Industry

We continue to support this work, including partnering with other trade associations to deliver three regional workshops for SMEs. Our focus is to ensure that it delivers benefits in the short and longer term for members and we have been asked to specifically contribute ideas for what the Midlands can do to support and help deliver any agreed deal.

Rail Technology Roadshow



The first Rail Technology Roadshow organised by RFM in partnership with Dream Marketing International hit the road during the week of 18th June visiting Hitachi at Newton Aycliffe, Siemens in Ashby and Chippenham, Bombardier in Derby and Alstom in Wolverhampton. Some 20 companies took part, each having their own space in the massive vehicle which aims to “take the exhibition to the client sites”.

We really like the concept and will be looking to build on this year’s success in 2019. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact sophia@midlandsrail.co.uk to register for early information (no commitment is required at this stage!)

RVE Meet the Buyer

We are delighted to have been asked to take the lead to organise a Meet the Buyer event at this year’s RVE Expo on 4th October. We will be working in partnership with our friends in RIA and DIT to bring a mix of UK and international buyers to the event – probably more UK than international so soon after Innotrans!

Companies already confirmed include: Alstom, Angel Trains, Bombardier, CAF, Hitachi and Porterbrook with several others likely to be added in the next few weeks.

The application process is now open and you can find the application form on our website on the RVE Event page.



Midlands Connect

On behalf of members we have responded to the consultation being undertaken by Midlands Connect on becoming the Sub-National Transport Body (SNTB) for the Midlands. We have supported this move on the basis that it will provide the region with more say in determining regional transport policy and priorities, however, we have also flagged up the following potential pitfalls to avoid:

- a proliferation of Sub-National Transport Bodies (TfN, Midlands Connect etc.) could create an even more complex landscape for rail than currently exists resulting in less certainty for the supply chain about which projects will happen and when – this must be avoided;
- once created the SNTB must be seen to be truly representing the whole of the Midlands with clear priorities for the East, West and pan region;

- the SNTB should ensure that freight, in and through, the Midlands receives adequate focus and priority;
- the SNTB should work with other bodies such as RFM to ensure maximum opportunity for regional and UK based supply chain companies where possible and practical.

BEIS Minister Supplier Roundtable

Richard Harrington MP and current BEIS Minister for the rail supply chain visited Bombardier in Derby on 17 May. During his visit, time was set aside for the Minister to meet a number of our members who supply the rolling stock market to discuss key issues. The roundtable was chaired by RFM Board Director, Rupert Brennan-Brown and included topics such as skills and apprenticeships and the impact of Brexit.

iRail 2018: Inspiring the Next Generation



The first iRail to take place in the West Midlands was held on 16th May at the National College for High Speed Rail (NCHSR). Fourteen schools took part with all pupils getting hands on experience with latest VR training equipment available at the college. Network Rail also hosted visits 'behind the scenes' at New Street station with pupils benefitting from an opportunity to see

aspects of the station not normally open to the public. During lunch teachers heard from HS2, Network Rail and West Midlands Railway about the wealth of opportunities available to young people joining the industry. The day concluded with presentations to the two winning schools.

Congratulations to:
Aston University Engineering Academy (Winner)
Holte School (Runner – Up)

Both will be invited to take part in the Porterbrook iRail Grand Challenge Final later in the year.

Rail Infrastructure Networking



RFM was again pleased to support the Rail Infrastructure Networking (RIN) event held in the DW Stadium in Wigan on the 17th May. This event is growing in popularity and is a perfect opportunity for organisations of all sizes to promote their expertise. The next event is at Pride Park, Derby on 6th September. Last year this venue topped all the attendance figures and this year it is expected to be even larger.

Network Rail - National Supplier Conference

RFM attended the Network Rail National Supplier Conference at the NEC on 7th June where Network Rail made a number of interesting presentations covering:

- preparations for CP6,

- how Infrastructure Projects and Route Services have devolved into eight operating divisions,
- the future workbank and
- the opportunities for the supply chain.

Network Rail also reviewed the Northern Hub Alliance project based on Alliancing and Collaboration with a team of contractors, discussing the successes and lessons learned. They clearly see this model as the way forward and RFM will be looking at how we can support more of our members to get involved in this type of approach. Finally, Network Rail discussed a new "Open for Business" Charter which is due to be released later this year and is designed to attract more third-party investment and help to remove the barriers to innovation.



Farewell to Conor and welcome to Jemma!

At the end of May we said goodbye to Conor Newby, our University intern who had completed his year with us. Conor has now achieved a 1st Class Honours Degree and was also Highly Commended in the recent University of Derby Student Intern of the Year Awards. We wish him every success in his future career. Conor is replaced by Jemma Smalls. Jemma is currently a student at the University of Derby studying Business Management (major) and English (minor). Jemma's main responsibilities will be to help with events, communications to members, including developing our website and social

media presence together with supporting other RFM activities.

Rail Fares Regulation and Reform Consultation Goes Live

The rail industry (via Rail Delivery Group), with independent watchdog Transport Focus, are currently running a three-month public consultation to understand what the country wants to see from an up to date and easier fares and ticketing system.

The consultation is hosted on www.britainrunsonrail.co.uk and involves a questionnaire that can be completed online or via freepost. The rail industry will be utilising this opportunity to engage with governments and will host a series of roundtables with consumer, business and technology groups.

Any proposals from the industry will be designed to be neutral in overall revenue terms and would require working with central and devolved governments to implement any ideas. This is an excellent opportunity for customers, businesses, passenger groups, stakeholders, employees and the public to input their opinions on what the fares system should look like.

The outcomes of the consultation will feed into a final report in the autumn which will make proposals to governments with options for fares reform and ideas for implementation. Alongside major upgrades to stations and services, an easier-to-use range of fares is key to delivering the industry's long-term plan to change and improve.

Funding for SMEs for Skills

Derby College have recently secured significant funding to support SMEs in upskilling their workforce with an NVQ 2 or 3. To be eligible businesses must be based in the D2N2 area and operate in one of the following sectors:

construction, creative and digital, health and social care, low carbon or transport equipment manufacturing.

Existing employees aged 19 and above are eligible for funding towards a whole NVQ or units of NVQs – so employers can mix and match units to suit their needs. Funding can also be used for basic Maths and English including for those people for whom English is a second language.

If you want to find out more contact BusinessEnquiries@Derby-College.ac.uk

Queen's Award for Enterprise

The Queen's Awards for Enterprise are the most prestigious awards for UK businesses. Since the Awards' inception in 1965 over 7000 companies have won a Queen's Award.

Winning an Award offers businesses multiple benefits, including global recognition, boosting staff morale and increasing growth.

Almost all **UK businesses** (including non-profit) can apply.

How to apply:

- The application process is **free**.
- All applications must be made **online**.
- You may apply for **more than one** category.
- The application process for the 2019 Queen's Awards for Enterprise closes at midday on Wednesday **12th September 2018**.
- All entry forms, eligibility criteria and information on how to apply is available at <https://goo.gl/CQrCzp>

Let's Join Forces!

One of the great benefits RFM offers its members is the opportunity to join forces with the RFM team and other member companies to create a combined presence at events that may otherwise be beyond the reach of some of our smaller companies.



Events currently lined up for this approach include:

- **Dinner at the Roundhouse 2018,**
- **The Railway Children Ball,**
- **IMechE Luncheon 2019** and
- **Railtex 2019.**

If you would like to be involved, please contact sophia@midlandsrail.co.uk.

In particular we are very keen to hear from companies that would be interested in a joint presence at Railtex 2019 so we can book this sooner rather than later.

Forthcoming RFM Events

RFM Summer BBQ 2018

*13th July 2018, 2:30pm – 5:30pm
Pitcher & Piano, Derby*

Join us for an exclusive networking afternoon at the Pitcher and Piano Derby. Don't miss this opportunity to network with fellow members, complete with a welcome drink and full BBQ buffet.



Tickets are priced at £20 plus VAT per person which includes a BBQ buffet and welcome drink.

Bookings will be open until the 10th July.

RFM Charity Golf Day 2018

12 October 2018

*The Nottinghamshire Golf & Country Club,
Cotgrave, Main Road,
Nottingham NG12 3HB*

Come and join us for the next RFM Charity Golf Day on Friday 12th October 2018 at the Nottinghamshire Golf and Country Club.

Having raised over £1500 for local charity Derby School for the Deaf in 2017, this year RFM will once again offer members the opportunity to support our chosen charity which this year is Railway Children. Though we can't guarantee to match last year's glorious weather, we can promise that there will be numerous prizes up for

grabs and a variety of sponsorship opportunities available.



The day will start with bacon rolls followed by teams of four competing in a Stableford format followed by a two-course dinner in the Lakeview Restaurant. We are keen to see a good mix of both female and male golfers taking part.

There will be prizes for nearest the pin and best round (please be honest about your handicap if you have one!). The winning team prizes will be presented at the end of the day and will include the presentation of the Neil Harvey Memorial Trophy. There will also be a raffle for the Railway Children Charity during dinner – all raffle prizes gratefully received!

We are currently exploring opportunities for non-golfers to get involved and more details will be available shortly.

To register a full or part team or to enquire about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Jemma@midlandsrail.co.uk for a registration form/details.

2018 Charity Golf Day Sponsored by:



RFM Annual Conference

18th October 2018, 8:30am – 3:30pm
Pride Park Stadium

**** **BOOKINGS NOW OPEN******

Following the success of our 2017 partnership with *Dinner at the Roundhouse* organisers, Mainspring, the 2018 RFM Conference will once again be held prior to the Dinner on Thursday 18th October 2018, to create a full day and evening of activity in Derby. As in previous years RFM members are entitled to discounted tickets for the Dinner and this year we are pleased to offer non RFM member companies discounted tickets to our conference if they are attending the Dinner.



'What an event! Lots of big names and a great energy in the room... I took note of one quote in-particular that was about the organisation: RFM is the "best, most energetic regional forum" – if that's not a glowing reference then I don't know what is! The conference had a genuine warmth to it with proactive speakers and an enthused audience.'

Joe Whalen, MD Railway Project Services on our 2017 Conference.

RFM members are entitled to two free places at the conference, to book visit <https://www.midlandsrail.co.uk/events/rfem-annual-conference/>

InnoTrans 2018

18th – 21st September 2018
Messe, Berlin

[InnoTrans](#) is the leading international trade fair for transport technology and takes place every two years in Berlin. Sub-divided into the five trade fair segments Railway Technology, Railway Infrastructure, Public Transport, Interiors and Tunnel Construction, InnoTrans occupies all 41 halls available at Berlin Exhibition Grounds. The InnoTrans Convention, the event's top-level supporting programme, complements the trade fair.

With plans for InnoTrans 2018 now in full swing, we want to hear from you... Are you planning to attend or exhibit? Are you looking for support and advice?

Please share your current and future plans with us via email: Sophia@midlandsrail.co.uk

For a full listing of both RFM and external industry events, please see the [events page](#) on our website.