

Winter Update

Informing our rail community

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR, PAUL ROBINSON:



Since our last update we have seen a General Election, have welcomed in a new decade and the UK has left the EU!

The start of 2020 has seen rail continue to dominate the

news and we expect a number of key policy announcements in the coming weeks and months that will set the direction for the industry for the foreseeable future.

Over the last few months I've been delighted to attend the RFM annual conference and members' Christmas lunch; two major events which gave me the opportunity to chat to many of you about your businesses and experiences as a RFM member.

Your RFM team have been planning for a busy 2020 with lots of events and activities for you to take advantage of – more below on some of these. In particular I hope to catch up with many of you at our flagship Annual Parliamentary Reception on 17th March.

Since the last update we have had a significant number of new members – I would like to extend a warm welcome to them all.

RFM News

Record number of new members

Since our last quarterly update, we have had a record number of new members join our railway family. This growth gives us a stronger voice and our members even more networking opportunities. And of course with bigger comes busier! We are delighted to welcome the following new members:

[3 Squared](#), [AB Connectors \(IT Electronics\)](#), [Ferrabyrne](#), [FliteTrak/Viator Rail](#), [Gapro](#), [GB Railfreight](#), [High Motive \(Gold\)](#), [KC4Business](#), [Modern Railways](#), [National Composites Centre \(Silver\)](#), [Paintbox Transportation](#), [Quinn Infrastructure](#), [RSN Events](#), [Schaltbau Transportation](#), [The Mental Wealth Company](#), [Thompson Group](#), [Transport Design International](#), [Work Wallet](#)

Many of our new members, pictured here, attended our annual conference in October.



Membership Visits

Events are a great way to ensure you maximise your membership and we are delighted that so many of you participated in our 2019 events. We are thrilled that members have contributed to our 2020 schedule with ideas, venues and sponsorship to ensure that the programme remains relevant and valuable. If you have ideas for events, improvements or feedback on events – do please get in touch.

We also welcome the opportunity to meet with all our members. Since Cat joined in September she has managed to fit in almost 40 visits to companies; ALL with exciting plans already in motion to develop and grow. Meeting members is a real highlight so get in touch if you want a visit and Cat, Bob or Elaine will come out to see you!

Talking to members also highlights all the positive activity that's going on, so please do share your good news with us so we can share your successes more widely. We also recognise it's not always plain sailing. Some of our members have challenges and we are uniquely positioned to provide support. We continue to help our members with confidential support around a range of issues including facilitations, supply chain expansions and capability searches, payment issues, legal concerns, background research, raising concerns and more. So do please speak with us if you think we might be able to help.

Reports from RFMs Delivery Groups

Reporting into our Board are our four Delivery Groups (DGs) each chaired by a Board Director, supported by 2-3 other Directors and other volunteer members. Our delivery groups provide additional tactical support to the RFM team to allow us to do more for our members.

Business Growth DG (Chair: Nicola Phillips, Siemens)

Since the last update the group's focus has been on developing the SME Barriers to

Growth workshop. This took place on 9 January with 26 organisations involved in wide ranging discussions covering diversification, innovation, market expansion and internal capabilities. We are now considering how we take forward the great ideas from the workshop.

Events, Communications & Networking DG (Chair: Donna Bickley, Inside Out Group)

The 2020 schedule of events has now been published with most dates firmed up including those for the major events later in the year. We anticipate adding a few further events in the coming weeks. You will also see an increasing number of opportunities to sponsor our events; to find out more about these opportunities contact Cat or Elaine.

People, Skills & Diversity DG (Chair: Laura Cawdell, TÜV Rheinland)

Since the last newsletter the group has launched the [RFM Education Outreach Engagement : Opportunities for Members](#) volunteering guide. The guide highlights a number of opportunities to support our skills work and we are now establishing a database of volunteers that are willing to help with specific opportunities. In addition we are starting to develop a bank of activities that volunteers can use when they attend school careers fairs, insight into rail days etc. Our current priority is ensuring that our flagship iRail: Inspiring the Next Generation event runs successfully in March.

Political & Stakeholder Engagement DG (Chair: Rupert Brennan Brown, Porterbrook)

Our main activity since the autumn newsletter was the development and launch of [RFM's General Election 2019 Manifesto](#). This succinct one page document highlights four key 'asks' of the new government. It received a lot of positive comments from members and some excellent news coverage; we will now be pressing the new government on the issues we have raised.



RFM Derby-based Gold member TÜV Rheinland had quite a year in 2019, with significant growth and exciting developments. Highlights include some key recruits, an office move and the introduction of an Apprenticeship Scheme which provides an eight year pathway from leaving school to Masters degree level. The scheme, which was launched in July, saw its first recruit in Dylan who started in August. TÜV Rheinland is committed to providing opportunities for young people and attracting them to a career in our amazing rail industry.

TÜV Rheinland's UK rail business offers accredited certification and safety assurance services to the industry in the UK and internationally with strategic consultancy and engineering design services available through subsidiary TÜV Rheinland Risktec. The team in Derby prides itself on providing a personal, local service and also works collaboratively with other TÜV Rheinland functions across the globe. 2019 saw them delivering projects across Europe, capitalising on expert knowledge in other countries and related industries.

November saw the introduction of a new initiative to provide free, informative sessions on the upcoming changes to the Entity in Charge of Maintenance (ECM) regulations. These sessions were delivered to over 40 rail professionals from a variety of companies across the industry, including ROSCOs, TOCs, FOCs, OEMs and infrastructure managers. Following excellent feedback on these sessions, TÜV Rheinland is looking at similar programs of information sharing throughout 2020.

If you would like to be kept informed of these please contact Laura Cawdell who will be more than happy to help (laura.cawdell@uk.tuv.com).

The team expanded significantly during 2019 with several new recruits enjoying various team building and employee engagement activities during the year. A bigger team also needed more space so we also managed an office move and welcomed rail colleagues to the official 'office warming' party!



Since starting its UK rail business in March 2018, TÜV Rheinland has successfully secured over 100 projects including on track plant, on track machines, new build rolling stock, rolling stock modifications and upgrades, maintenance optimisation and strategic consultancy. We are looking forward to a busy 2020 and continuing to develop and grow our business.

If you're a Gold Rail Forum Midlands member, you can share your news with our vast network of businesses by sending your stories to elaineclark@midlandsrail.co.uk to be featured in the next Quarterly Update.

RFM Annual Conference (October)

The RFM Annual Conference again delivered to a packed audience of 200 with speakers including Maria Machancoses, Midlands Connect; Paul Plummer, RSG; Julian Edwards, East Midlands Railway and Susan Cooklin from Network Rail.



A panel discussion led by Anna Ince saw valuable contributions from Mary Grant, Porterbrook and Mike Noakes, BEIS around the Rail Sector Deal. With updates from our four Delivery Groups, members benefited from a full immersion of national, regional and activity updates as well as excellent networking opportunities.

Feedback from the conference was overwhelmingly positive and planning is already underway for this year.



RFM Innovators Toolbox (November)

Delivered with [Swindell & Pearson](#) and [SET](#) this breakfast event tackled a key but often overlooked element of innovation: Intellectual Property. Speaker Tim Gilbert set out the differences and reasons why various protections exist, quickly establishing that IP is a business enabler, supporting future growth (and highlighting that PatentBox can help reduce tax bills). Martin Whitley of SET provided valuable experiences of the IP journey with their innovative wheel motor, helping to reposition IP in a more positive and valuable light. Certainly worth exploring this further if you are innovating.

Collaboration, Digital and Sustainability are the priority themes for this year's Porterbrook Innovation Hub which will specifically support RFMs Rail Sector Deal Midlands pilot. This launch event provided potentially interested parties with an insight into what Porterbrook will be looking for and the timescales for the 2020 process. Creating value and sharing knowledge is key to collaboration and the attendees certainly took this on board with meaningful discussions kicked off and ideas abounded.

RFM Christmas Luncheon (December)

Too many names to mention here (do read the [press release](#) on the website) but against a backdrop of tinsel, Christmas jumpers and balloon modelling (not a typo), we hosted speakers Sir Patrick McLoughlin and Neil Robertson of NSAR along with 160 guests and members for our festive lunch with pre lunch carols from the Derwentio Choir. Special thanks are due to RFM members [Jobson James](#) and [Ward](#) for sponsoring the table wine and pre lunch drinks. Whilst the formal event concluded around 4pm rumours abound that some members were out until rather late.....

Importantly, through our ticket sales and donations/raffle on the day, we raised £1600 for our chosen charity: Mission Christmas Cash for Kids. Jon Stratton of Bauer Media, who co-ordinated the campaign, said "This was an **INCREDIBLE RESULT** thank you **SO MUCH** for supporting our Mission Christmas campaign once again – we're totally overwhelmed by you and your members generosity. Please pass on our thanks to everyone who contributed to this amazing total – you should all be very proud."



Huge thanks to DCFC, East Midlands Railway and Hitachi for prize donations on the day (and yes it is a Leicester City shirt!).

Barriers to Growth (January)

This highly participative workshop involved some 26 Managing Directors and senior strategists identifying the barriers, potential solutions and priorities to their businesses trying



to grow. Four key themes were each led by an industry expert and more details are included in the write up on our [website](#).

Mental Wealth Café 2 (January)

We welcomed back Wendy McCristal of newly formed and member company The Mental Wealth Company to deliver our Mental Wealth Café 2. This hotly anticipated follow-up to the very well received Mental Wealth Café from 2019 took the mental health discussion forward in a very practical session with speakers including Aegis Engineering who have implemented a mental health strategy since the first café, and West Midlands Trains talking about the range of activity they support on this important subject. Thanks to CHH Conex and NCATI for your sponsorship.

INDUSTRY EVENTS

A few external highlights:

- **4th Friday Club speaking slot 1/11** – speaking at the 4th Friday Club Midlands event, Elaine Clark highlighted the Rail Sector Deal activity, particularly around the two pilot projects we are leading on – Apprentices/Schools Engagement and SME Collaboration.
- **RIN York 21/11** – neither a cool day nor an early start could impact on the numbers at the York RIN event and it

was great to see Flotec, Westermo, Jobson James, DMS Technologies and High Motive to name a few! Well worth a visit.

- **RDG Annual Conference** – change was the theme of the RDG Annual Conference, which echoed throughout its many speakers and set out how the industry can overcome challenges to deliver positive change to passengers and freight.
- **Siemens Supplier Day** – digital, local and passenger were the central themes of Siemens Supplier Day in Windsor. We were delighted that the supplier speakers were all members of Rail Forum – congratulations to Garrandale, CE Turner, Solo Rail and RE Cooke. We fully support supplier engagement events and welcome the unrivalled opportunities for collaboration that they naturally bring.
- **Very Light Rail Conference (VLRC)** – this first VLRC was organised and hosted by WMG at the University of Warwick. This radical solution for a lightweight rail car could play a significant part in the move to low carbon emissions with greatly reduced costs compared to alternative options. With infrastructure costs as low as £10m per km compared to £45-50m per km for tram/heavy rail systems this radical system can provide a positive business case where more traditional heavy rail or tram systems become cost prohibitive. In fact in the UK alone 16 potential schemes have been identified including Coventry where it is envisaged that the first system will be up and running. A number of our members are already involved with helping to develop and deliver the first prototype vehicle which will go on test at the purpose built Very Light Rail National Innovation Centre (VLRNIC) in Dudley.

A few external highlights cont.

- **Unlocking Innovation ‘MADE’ for Rolling Stock** - covering a wide range of subjects from Materials, Automation, Digitisation to Energy this event provided something for everyone. Hosted by Huddersfield University who are the UKRRN lead for Rolling Stock there was also the opportunity to tour the facilities which included the impressive rolling road test rig for evaluating track/wheel interfaces.

With further motion and driver simulators together with a pantograph test rig planned the University will become the 'go to' centre for testing of rolling stock sub systems both here in the UK and for overseas customers. Also on view was the first lightweight



carbon fibre bogie which is due to go on initial testing early in the New Year.

- **Rail Freight Group Christmas Luncheon** – we were delighted to join Maggie Simpson, and 780 guests and members of the Rail Freight Group to hear keynote speaker Nick King, Network Services Director, Network Rail set out his vision for a virtual, vertically integrated railway. A wonderful networking event, and great to see so many RFM members involved in the freight sector. Photo shows RFG's top table guests.



Practical Procurement in Infrastructure

*13th February 2020, 1:30 - 6:00pm
Make UK Technology Hub, Birmingham, B6 7EP*

For our infrastructure colleagues, we have moved on the well-attended Bravo and Network Rail Update that took place in 2019, with this half day event completely focused on how members can maximise procurement portals and hear from key organisations including Network Rail, HS2 and Highways England. Thanks to Quinn Infrastructure and MAKE UK for your sponsorship.

IMechE Railway Division Annual Lunch

*28th February 2020, 12:00 - 4:30pm
Grosvenor House Hotel, London, W1K 7TN*

RFM are delighted to be hosting 3 tables of members at the prestigious IMechE Annual Railway Luncheon. Look out for our promotional activity in the run up to this event – and do let us know if you are already attending as a guest or if you have your table so we can include you.

Annual Parliamentary Reception

*17th March 2020, 4:00 - 6:00pm
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA*

At the time of writing this event was almost fully booked so if you want to be added to the waiting list please contact Elaine. Our thanks to Cogitamus along with all our Patrons and Gold members for their sponsorship.

Sustainability in Rail

*26th March 2020, 09:30 - 12:00pm
Ward Chesterfield, Chesterfield, S41 9HY*

Climate change discussions are clearly going to dominate the media for a long time to come so we are thrilled to bring forward the circular economy discussion with this “Sustainability in Rail” event with Ward Recycling at their facility in Chesterfield. With speakers from RSSB, Tarmac, HS2, Network Rail and Ward, this is a great opportunity for ‘green’ updates from across the railway industry.