



## PRESS RELEASE

23rd March 2021

### **Rail Supply Group Appoints Leading Industry Experts Jacqueline Starr and Elaine Clark**

Today, the [Rail Supply Group](#) (RSG) is delighted to announce the appointment of two leading experts to its industry-wide Council, Jacqueline Starr, CEO of the [Rail Delivery Group](#) and Elaine Clark, CEO of the [Rail Forum Midlands](#).

Jacqueline Starr became CEO of The Rail Delivery Group (RDG) in December 2020, replacing Paul Plummer. The RDG brings together the companies that run Britain's railway into a single team with one goal – to deliver a better railway. Jacqueline's passion and expertise in bringing the industry together to deliver better customer experience will be central to her role with RSG.

Elaine Clark is CEO of Rail Forum Midlands (RFM), a national industry association based at the centre of one of the largest clusters of rail businesses in the world. With some 250 members, RFM has been leading the [Rail Sector Deal](#) 'Midlands Pilots' project, which is specifically designed to encourage SME growth through collaboration and schools engagement.

In 2020, Elaine was instrumental in establishing a series of 'Dragon's Den' style events in which SMEs were given the opportunity to collaborate and respond to clients' needs. Several successful pitches are now being taken forward by clients and RFM is planning further events to address some of the industry's biggest challenges including decarbonisation.

#### **Philip Hoare, Chair of the Rail Supply Group said:**

*"The Rail Supply Group is driven by accomplished individuals who are ready to use their experience and expertise to implement positive change for the entire rail industry. I warmly welcome Jacqueline and Elaine, two such leading experts, to the RSG. Each brings their unique and much needed expertise at a pivotal time for our industry's ambition to build back better."*

#### **About her appointment to the RSG Council, Jacqueline Starr, said:**

*"I am delighted to be joining the Rail Supply Group Council, and to be representing train operating companies. The rail supply chain plays an important role in ensuring we deliver the best possible service to our customers, which will be more important than ever as we look to attract people back to rail and support a green recovery."*

*"In the wake of the pandemic, the railway will need to adjust to a new environment that reflects the changing needs of our customers and the imperative to reduce whole system*



*costs. Meeting these challenges will require ingenuity, innovation and agility – all of which the supply chain excels in. I look forward to working with the RSG Council to support a vibrant UK supply chain and to deliver a railway that has customers at its heart."*

**About her appointment to the RSG Council, Elaine Clark, said:**

*"It's an honour to join the Rail Supply Group Council to represent the Midlands and the wider rail supply chain. The RSG has an important role to play working with Government to ensure the environment is conducive for our industry to thrive. I believe this means working in partnership to achieve a safe, sustainable and affordable railway for all our customers. In particular, through RSG, I will be working hard to make sure we understand the crucial role that SMEs play and the new opportunities they bring."*

**Notes to Editors:**

1. Jacqueline Starr was appointed to RSG Council in January 2021. She has been Chief Executive Officer for the [Rail Delivery Group](#) (RDG) since December 2020, replacing Paul Plumber. Jacqueline joined RDG in 2015 as Managing Director for Customer Experience, then Chief Operating Officer until her present position. Prior to RDG, Jacqueline worked in customer experience for the telecommunications and banking sectors.
2. Elaine Clark was appointed to the RSG Council in January 2021. Elaine has been CEO of Rail Forum Midlands (RFM) since 2018 and before that was General Manager. Prior to joining RFM Elaine was part of the team that established the National Skills Academy for Rail bringing her previous expertise as an MD of an SME training provider with the electrical power industry. A Chartered Engineer Elaine also has experience in the chemical and electricity supply industries.
3. The Rail Supply Group (RSG) is the leadership body for the UK rail supply sector, whose aim is to strengthen the capability and competitiveness of the UK rail supply chain to grow business at home and abroad.
4. The RSG was tasked by Government in 2018 to deliver its [Industrial Strategy: Rail Sector Deal](#) and aims to strengthen the competitiveness of the rail supply industry at home and overseas.
5. In July 2020, the RSG was invited by Government - BEIS and DfT - to form a Taskforce to put in place measures to help the industry recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. A series of ACT NOW initiatives harnessing industry-wide support are already supporting recovery.
6. RSG's core activities are: Digital Railway; Mobility and Data; Sustainable Railway; and Export and Inward Investment. Overarching themes are: Midlands rail cluster, Skills and People, Productivity.



7. RSG Council includes Government representatives from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Industrial Strategy and Department for Transport, Sector Deal Industry Champions, co-opted suppliers, trade associations, client representatives and trade union representatives. The secretariat for RSG is provided by the Department for Transport.
8. The Chair of RSG is Philip Hoare and the Vice-Chair is Anna Ince, both Philip and Anna are available for interview.

**For more information or to arrange an interview with RSG, please contact:**

Marion Gourlay 07801 301259 [marion@transportpor.com](mailto:marion@transportpor.com)