



# PRESSrelease

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## For immediate use

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### **Telford International Railfreight Park.**

Telford International Railfreight Park was officially launched today (Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September) at Enginuity in Ironbridge. Over 160 delegates attended the event including local businesses, rail operators, developers and users.

The new facility, jointly funded by Telford & Wrekin Council, European Economic Development Fund, Advantage West Midlands and English Partnerships comes on stream in spring 2009.

It and will provide a link for freight to flow in and out of the borough to and from destinations throughout the UK and beyond. The event flagged up the opportunities for companies to look at their logistics arrangements and also the opportunities for the commercial development on the site.

There are 24 acres of development land next to the rail served site, 19 acres of which will have a dedicated rail link.

Cllr Eric Carter, Telford & Wrekin Council's cabinet spokesman on Regeneration, welcomed the keynote speakers including Sarah Raper from Transforming Telford who spoke about the importance of the park for the borough and the region and the opportunities for inward investment.

Colin Flack, Chief Executive of the Rail Alliance gave the national overview about the uptake in rail nationally, as a viable alternative to road transport.

Operator Ken Russell from JG Russell (Transport) Ltd spoke about the operations commencing from Spring 2009 and the capability of the site to handle a wide range of service needs. Finally, Alan Fox from Telford & Wrekin Council presented the commercial development opportunities and announced the agents who have been appointed to assist in the marketing of the site.

Cllr Eric Carter said, “In addition to improving Telford’s infrastructure, each freight train is estimated to take around 50 HGV lorries off the roads and the park will help support the council’s aim of reducing the borough’s carbon footprint – the amount of harmful greenhouse gases it emits.

“The Railfreight Park will make the borough a more attractive place for business and will help boost job creation. It clearly shows that Telford & Wrekin has business at its heart and is ready to meet the challenges of the future.”

Cllr. Steve Bentley, Cabinet Member for the Environment, added: “With rising fuel costs, industry is looking for alternatives to road for freight. This will help to reduce the numbers of HGVs on the regions roads by making rail transport to the Telford hub a more viable and greener option.

“Demand for railfreight is forecast to grow by almost a third by 2015 and to double in the next 20 years. The railfreight park will help meet this demand for the borough’s needs.”

**ENDS**

**Further information for the media is available from:** Nigel Newman,  
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