



PRESSrelease

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For immediate use

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First Train arrives at Telford International Railfreight Terminal

The first train rolled into Telford International Railfreight Park today (Tuesday 10 Feb).

The locomotive was brought in via the connection to the national rail network at Wellington and was designed to test the facility, tracks, points etc prior to the terminal becoming fully operational in May 2009. This is the first train to arrive at the terminal since the branch line was removed in 1993.

The testing was attended by the newly signed up terminal operator John G Russell (Transport) Ltd who have a strong tradition in rail networking having been involved in rail freight for around 40 years. The company are one of the top UK logistics suppliers using rail.

Ken Russell, Development Director at John G Russell said, "Telford is seen as a strategic location in a network of terminals we are developing which extend from Inverness in the north to Barking in the south. This means that we can offer cost effective and professional logistics solutions from Telford to destinations within the UK and internationally.

"We are excited about working with Telford & Wrekin Council and Transforming Telford to provide local business with a viable alternative transport solution that also has associated environmental benefits."

The test train, provided by Direct Rail Services Ltd, a national rail freight operator, consisted of a Class 66 locomotive and a container wagon. It is the first locomotive to travel the length of the branch line and sidings in the new terminal.

Neil McNicolas, Managing Director of DRS said, “The train is testing the new rail terminal at Telford which will increase capacity on the rail network, allowing a potential increase in freight services. The trend for more freight to be transported by rail will help the environment by reducing the size of transport’s carbon footprint. The new terminal will not only help support the local economy but also the rail freight industry as a whole”.

The purpose built terminal is capable of handling intermodal containers, ISO tanks, bulk goods, forestry products, steel, palletised cargo, roll cages and fresh produce. It incorporates five reception sidings, hardstanding and storage facilities, a fuelling station for road and rail and a road weighbridge to allow for the speedy transfer of freight between road and rail.

The test train successfully negotiated all the sidings and a dedicated rail spur to an 18.8acre development site which is currently jointly being marketed by Telford & Wrekin Council and agents Atisreal. This is part of a total of 24 acres within the Railfreight Park which are earmarked for the creation of major warehousing and storage facilities. It is these developments that are expected to bring in the bulk of the jobs the terminal and park is expected to create.

Cllr Andrew Eade, Leader of Telford & Wrekin Council said, “The test train today is a sign of things to come. The opening of the terminal in May this year is timely, coming at a time when we are concentrating our efforts on supporting both existing and new businesses in the borough. The terminal represents a major investment in our economic future and will underline

Telford and Wrekin's role as a important key transportation centre for the UK and beyond".

The multi million£ terminal has been funded by a range of partners including Advantage West Midlands, Homes & Communities Agency, the European Regional Development Fund and Telford & Wrekin Council in partnership with Transforming Telford.

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Further information for the media is available from: David Morgan, Public Relations Officer, on 01952 382406, or email david.morgan@telford.gov.uk