



PRESSrelease

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Railfreight terminal moves ahead with first operator

Agreements have now been signed with the specialist operator who will run the multi million pound International Railfreight terminal under a lease from Telford & Wrekin Council.

This lease agreement heralds a major step forward for the railfreight terminal which is expected to open and begin operating in May 2009. All major trackwork and terminal infrastructure has now been installed with just the dedicated office building awaiting completion.

The terminal will have open access for traffic from all businesses who wish to take advantage of rail.

Telford & Wrekin Council has agreed the lease with national logistics firm John G Russell (Transport) Ltd who have experience of operating a number of UK rail terminals and were one of the first companies to begin running their own freight services on the national rail network.

This agreement paves the way for development of around 24 acres of adjacent land and the creation of major warehousing and storage facilities.

It is this development that will bring the bulk of the jobs which the terminal is expected to create, which can now be marketed.

Ken Russell, Development Director at JG Russell said, "On opening, the terminal will be served by at least one daily rail service linking into a network

of national destinations and it is envisaged that traffic will grow as businesses take advantage of the rail access.

In addition to improving Telford's infrastructure, it will help to make Telford and Wrekin a more attractive place for businesses and employment creation.

It will also help to reduce the numbers of HGVs on the region's road by making rail transport to the Telford hub a more viable and greener alternative. Even just one train a day will have the potential to cut by 100 the number of lorry journeys in the region".

Cllr Eric Carter, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "This is great news for the borough and the terminal will bring real economic and environmental benefits, attracting new businesses to the area. It will help make the borough an important hub for West Midlands business while also helping to reduce the traffic on the region's roads.

"What we have achieved is a crucial part of the scheme and with an experienced operator, we have a real service to offer.

Cllr Miles Hosken, cabinet member for environment, added: "The terminal will represent a major investment in the borough's economic future and will underline Telford's role as a major transportation centre. The capacity of the terminal has the capability to really grow.

"I'm sure this will mean more jobs and less heavy goods traffic on the road network which I know many of us will welcome. It will also support the goals outlined in the Climate Change strategy the Council has adopted which looks at a number of different ways of reducing carbon emissions in the borough."

The multi-million pound terminal has been funded by a range of partners including Advantage West Midlands, HCA, and Telford & Wrekin Council in

partnership with Transforming Telford and is supported by money from the European Regional Development Fund.



PICTURES: (1) Ken Russell, Development Director at JG Russell , Cllr Miles Hosken, Cabinet Member for the Environment at Telford & Wrekin Council with Colette Ranford, Operations Manager, JG Russell.

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