



## For immediate use

**10 June 2009**

### **Telford International Railfreight Park opened**

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Shadow Secretary of State for Transport, Theresa Villiers MP, attended the official opening of the new Telford International Railfreight Park (TIRP) on Wednesday, 10 June.

Around 180 invited guests witnessed freight trains from DB Shenker and Direct Rail Services break a banner to celebrate the launch of the new terminal.

As well as the guest of honour, who is Member of Parliament for Chipping Barnet, the event was attended by national, local and trade media, representatives of the freight transport industry, councillors and other borough officials.

The formal welcome by Telford & Wrekin Council's chief executive Victor Brownlees, was followed by speeches from the Mayor, Cllr Karen Blundell, who thanked the funding partners; Mark Pearce of Advantage West Midlands; Ken Russell of terminal operator John G Russell (Transport) Ltd; Wing Commander Eric Peacock from the Ministry of Defence, representing rail users and Theresa Villiers MP.

The Shadow Minister then unveiled a plaque on a locomotive provided by Direct Rail Services, naming it 'Telford International Railfreight Park –June 2009' in honour of the new terminal.

The opening concluded with a ceremonial cake cutting and refreshments, after which guests were free to inspect the locomotives more closely and take a tour of the terminal.

The terminal, which can load or unload up to four freight trains a day, was part funded by the Council, Advantage West Midlands, Homes and Communities Agency and the European Regional Development Fund.

Cllr Eric Carter, Cabinet Member Regeneration – Telford & Wrekin Council, said:

“This will make the borough a more attractive place for business and will boost job creation and will firmly underline the point that Telford and Wrekin has the right infrastructure for business and is ready to meet the challenges of the future.”

Cllr Steve Bentley, Cabinet Member Environment – Telford & Wrekin Council, said:

“With rising fuel costs, industry is looking for alternatives to road for freight. This will help to reduce the numbers of HGVs on the region’s 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. This is the right project at the right time, particularly given this borough’s and the region’s strong manufacturing base.”

Further details can be found at <http://www.tirfp.co.uk/news.html>.

**-Ends-**

**Further information for the media is available from: Sylvia Herbert,**

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**TIRFP opening publications:** (links open in new windows)

[Agenda \(PDF 39Kb\)](#)

[Speaker profile \(PDF 43Kb\)](#)

[Approved Quotations \(PDF 43Kb\)](#)

[Background to the development \(PDF 52Kb\)](#)

[The facility \(PDF 284Kb\)](#)

[The operator – John G Russell \(Transport\) Ltd \(PDF 94Kb\)](#)