



PRESSrelease

quick ref: t. 01952 382402 w. www.telford.gov.uk

For immediate use

21 April 2009

Telford International Railfreight Park on track for business

The Telford International Railfreight Park will formally open in early June, on time and on budget.

The terminal, which can receive and load or unload up to four freight trains a day, has now begun taking its first commercial trains, with three arriving in the last week alone.

Final minor works are now being completed on the 26 acre site in Telford, which is the first public sector development of its kind and the first new railfreight terminal to open in the country for many years.

The completion of the Park has not been significantly affected by the collapse of building firm Wrekin Construction, who were the main contractors. The firm had virtually completed work on the Donnington site when it closed due to financial difficulties earlier this year.

Next week the terminal's operator John G Russell (Transport) Limited will launch the Telford International Railfreight Park as a new addition to their network at the influential Multimodal Exhibition at the NEC, while the Council is pleased with the level interest already shown in land adjoining the rail terminal by potential investors.

Final finishing works to buildings are being undertaken by contractors West RT and are due to complete by 8 May.

The Park will be formally opened on 10 June by Shadow Minister for Transport Theresa Villiers MP.

Cllr Stephen Bentley, cabinet member for Environment, said: “We are now on the very last stage of what has been a long journey which will see us complete what will be a fantastic facility for the borough’s and the region’s economy.

“This will help provide a clear economic advantage for businesses in the area, creating a cost effective logistics operation to destinations in the UK and Europe.

“It will also help to create viable alternative transport options for businesses and by early May, the Park will effectively be fully operational.”

The Council expects to recoup any extra costs that could arise linked to Wrekin Construction through an insurance bond and stresses that this should have no impact on the scheme’s overall budget.

The £8 million pound rail freight park 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.

-Ends-

PR5496

Further information for the media is available from: Nigel Newman,
Deputy Communications Manager, on 01952 382403, or email

nigel.newman@telford.gov.uk