

For immediate use**29 Aug 2008****Railfreight Terminal Capacity Expands With Further Funding Boost**

Telford's Railfreight Terminal, which opens next spring, has received another major funding boost which will help it to greatly increase the amount of daily freight it can handle.

The project, which will provide businesses in the borough with a state of the art railfreight facility and warehousing, has been allocated an extra £1 million in additional grant from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

This money will be used to build extra tracks and other infrastructure which will increase the number of trains the terminal can handle per day and provide greater flexibility to operations. The Donnington site will now be able to manage twice as much freight and can provide a quicker turnaround of goods.

This grant is the final stage of funding for the £8 million facility that has been funded by ERDF, Telford & Wrekin Council, English Partnerships and Advantage West Midlands.

In addition to improving the track and handling facilities, the extra funding will help ensure the terminal has special equipment to monitor and manage noise.

When complete, the terminal will provide customers with the opportunity to transport goods by rail throughout the UK and into Europe. The Council is also about to market 26 acres of warehousing land available for development immediately next to the terminal.

In addition to improving Telford's infrastructure, each freight train is estimated to take around 50 HGV lorries off the roads and the terminal will help support the Council's aim of reducing the borough's carbon footprint – the amount of harmful "greenhouse gases" it emits.

The terminal will be the first of its kind to the west of the West Midlands.

Cllr Eric Carter, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, said: "This is really the icing on the cake for this project and will allow us to create something even better than we had first envisaged.

"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 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 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."

Graham Watt, of Government Office West Midlands, said: "We are pleased to be able to provide ERDF grant for this exciting project and safeguard the delivery of a state of the art facility which is capable of supporting business creation and improving competitiveness in Telford and the region.

"We are particularly impressed with the contribution the project will make to the environmental aims of the ERDF Programme and to aid in developing an integrated and sustainable transport system for the region."



**Project Part-Financed
by the European Union**

**European Regional
Development Fund**

This project is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

ENDS

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

Deputy Communications Manager, on 01952 382403, or email

nigel.newman@telford.gov.uk

PR4987