

ONLINE

WINTER Edition 2021/22

ISSUE 38

Humber Express proves short-distance intermodal traffic is a viable option for shippers.

See article on page 4.



Photo from Victa Railfreight.

VTG team get to see freight's role in HS2

One million HGVs to be taken off the roads as first train departs HS2's Willesden Logistics Hub.

VTG Rail was delighted to join a number of delegates from across the rail freight sector in touring HS2 Ltd's Willesden Euro Terminal.

A huge thank you to Skanska Costain STRABAG Joint Venture and Legge Infrastructure Services for taking the time to host and show everyone around.

Ian Shaw, Sales & Marketing Director, VTG Rail, said: "We had a great day at the HS2 (High Speed Two) Ltd London logistics hub launch and GB Railfreight locomotive naming ceremony. The event really highlighted how rail can play a key part in big construction projects when incorporated from day one. VTG Rail UK is proud to be a supplier to this prestigious project and I'd like to extend my thanks to Skanska Costain STRABAG Joint Venture for their hospitality and showing us around the impressive new facility."

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Welcome

Colin Denman, Managing Director, VTG Rail.

Hello and a very warm welcome to the winter 2021/22 edition of 'ONLINE', our regular company newsletter.

With 2021 behind us I'm left reflecting on yet another amazing year for VTG Rail and the rail freight sector as a whole. There have been numerous challenges but at every opportunity the people working so hard right across the rail freight family have risen to the challenge. The drive toward net zero has seen rail freight hitting the headlines like never before, raising the profile of modal shift and it is an amazing time to be working in this dynamic sector.

Meeting the increasing demand for rail freight services, the VTG Rail team was delighted to tour HS2 Ltd's Willesden logistics hub. The scale of the project is truly impressive and VTG is very happy to be playing its part in helping move more goods off the roads and onto the railways.

VTG Connect has been very successful this year, as more companies want greater visibility over their goods in transit. We have been working with Haltermann Carless, a long-time customer of ours, to increase visibility of their wagon fleet across all of Europe by using VTG Connect. It's been an exciting project and provides critical performance data. This customer need is something we definitely predict to increase in 2022 and beyond and our team will be ready to meet that demand.

We were delighted to come runner-up in the Innovation & Technical Development category at the RFG Awards last year. The level of competition was extremely high and it was fantastic to see so much drive and enthusiasm for the future of the sector.

Speaking of networking opportunities, on 8 December we were delighted to join more than 500 colleagues, suppliers and customers for the RFG Christmas Lunch. As the country gets ready for more potential Covid-related disruption in 2022, it was great to get to meet up again with many friends and colleagues.

I'd like to welcome our latest new starter Anna Kobzda, who joins us as Sales Support Coordinator. It's not an easy thing to join a new company right now and I'd like to wish her the very best of luck in her new role.

This year we were able to bring back the popular VTG Golf Day, a key date on the company calendar, which we have sorely missed with the pandemic disruption. Congratulations to all of our prize winners but most of all, thanks to everyone who attended for making it such a great day.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of our friends, colleagues, customers and suppliers every success throughout 2022 and I look forward to catching up soon.

VTG success at RFG Awards 2021

In September, VTG Rail was named runner up in the Innovation & Technical Development category at the Rail Freight Group's annual Awards.

The award was for our work on the Ecofret2, which judges recognised as a step change in development offering greater and more flexible carrying capacity with no wasted space, so incurring less turbulence and ensuring better fuel economy. Its track friendly bogies incur lower track access charges and the state of the art telematics system enables GPS tracking and monitoring services.

The Awards were held on the 9 September at the De Vere Latimer Estate Hotel, Chesham. It was a fantastic night with presenters John Smith, MD of GBRf, and Simon Coppen of Burges Salmon hosting proceedings.



Contact the VTG Rail team

If you would like to discuss anything in the newsletter, the work of VTG Rail or to speak with a member of the team, please contact us anytime.

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He went on to say: "There was some very impressive technology and collaborative teamwork on display, demonstrating rail freight at its very best. It was also great to see VTG Rail UK's new wagons working hard, moving thousands of tonnes of spoil out of London in the most environmentally friendly way. We're really pleased to be playing our part in this revolutionary new railway."

Over the lifecycle of the project up to seven freight trains per day are expected to depart the logistics hub at Willesden, and will remove around a million lorry journeys from the roads in the London area alone. One train per day will arrive at the hub bringing in construction materials, including concrete segments that will be used to construct HS2's London tunnels.

The first train carrying spoil removed from HS2 construction works left the HS2 logistics hub in Willesden on 29 June. Carrying 1,470 tonnes of spoil, the train departed at 03:51 and travelled to Barrington in Cambridgeshire, where the spoil was used in a disused quarry to bring it back into use for a new housing development.

The logistics hub has been brought into use by HS2's main works contractor, Skanska Costain STRABAG joint venture (SCS JV) who are building the HS2 tunnels through London. The hub will be used by other London contractors, Balfour Beatty VINCI SYSTRA JV (BBVS JV) and Mace Dragados JV (MD JV) who are constructing HS2's Old Oak Common and Euston stations respectively.

The first train was operated by GB Railfreight, and the start of the logistics service is the result of meticulous planning between HS2, Network Rail, SCS JV and HS2's supply chain.

HS2's Project Director, Malcolm Codling, said: "HS2 is committed to improving environmental standards in construction and the



departure of the first logistics train from Willesden is just one of the many measures we are taking to do that."

One of the next measures to reduce impact on local roads in the area is the installation of a conveyor system which will remove spoil from the construction of Old Oak Common station and transport it to the Willesden logistics hub. Plans for the system are being developed and it is due to be installed and operational by spring 2022.

Skanska Costain STRABAG's MD, James Richardson, said: "This is an exciting moment for the project, seeing the start of a million vehicles being taken off the road. Removing spoil by rail has significant benefits and will greatly reduce vehicle movements on local roads. The logistics hub will be pivotal in managing all sites in the Old Oak and Park Royal development area and will see coordination and collaboration across all delivery partners in the area."



Welcome our latest new starter:

Anna Kobzda

Sales Support Coordinator

Hi! My name is Anna and I have just recently joined the VTG UK as Sales Support Coordinator. My areas of expertise are contract coordination, sales enquiries, planning and forecasting as well as PR and marketing.

I have a strong background in working closely with customers and fostering long term business relationships. I am passionate about delivering excellent customer experience and I am looking forward to working across various departments here at VTG to ensure success and growth.

Originally, I come from Wroclaw, Poland – a city with a strong heritage and tradition of rail manufacturing. The first factory opened in 1833 as Linke-Hofmann-Werke, Breslau, and became one of the major production centres for rolling stock in Europe. Currently owned by Bombardier, it produces locomotives, bodies, frames and running gear for locomotives.

As a child I loved train travels; watching the landscape change from a different perspective was like rediscovering places I

already knew. It was a short journey to the city centre and it seemed like travel to a new place.

I moved to the United Kingdom in 2007 and settled with my family in Worcestershire. I worked with multi-national companies in various departments from customer service, sales

support and project management.

I am literally embarking on 'new tracks' within the rail industry and I am really curious to learn about various aspects of it and the market. I am enthusiastic about the prospect of bringing my experience in management and coordinating new business initiatives.

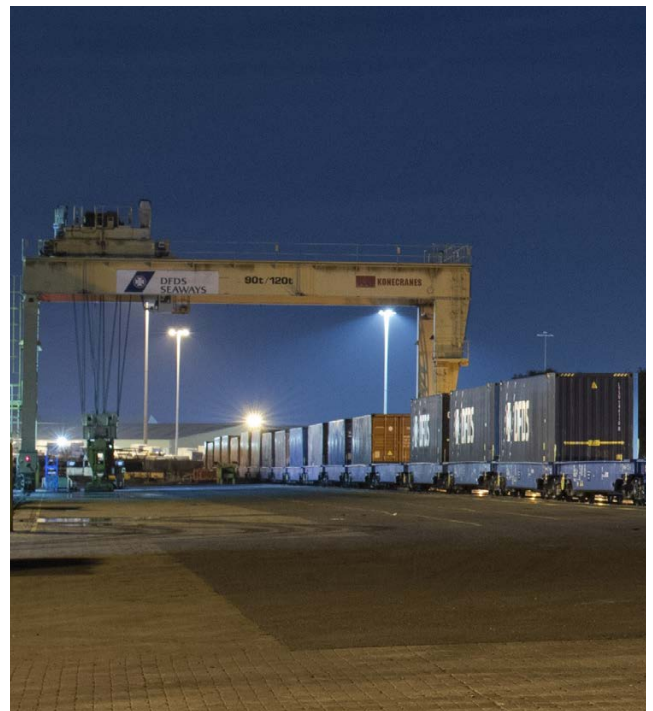


VTG Rail partners with Victa Railfreight on its exciting Humber Express service

VTG has recently worked with Victa Railfreight on a trial container service between the Port of Immingham and Doncaster iPort on behalf of iPort Rail, operators of the rapidly growing terminal adjacent to the M18. It also involved DFDS, a leading short sea and logistics company operating roll on roll off vessels into Immingham on several routes to and from European destinations.

The operation utilises the IXA wagons capable of handling a range of container sizes and types. After an official launch on 22 October last year, attended by a large number of guests from the freight and logistics industry and featuring extensively in national and local media (including a three-minute slot on the local BBC News), the trial operation commenced on Monday 1 November 2021 operating services branded as the "Humber Express" with capacity for over 40 containers per day.

Neil Sime, Managing Director of Victa Railfreight, said: "The trial has proved the concept of viable short distance rail movements from ports to inland terminals to the logistics market and has also identified opportunities for future development of new rail freight flows. We continue to collaborate with both iPort and DFDS to provide appropriate rail solutions to these customers."



VTG Rail Golf Day success

VTG Rail's Golf Day was back on the agenda in 2021, after previously having to postpone it due to the pandemic.

It is always the highlight of our calendar and it was great to be back out on the fairways, having fun. Six teams of near professional standard golfers made extremely light work of the 18-holes with Team 1 coming in with the best overall score.

- VTG also attended the Railway Benefit Fund's 17th Annual Golf Day on 23 September at Hendon Golf Club. We are keen supporters of the work of the RBF and were only too happy to attend and raise money for the charity, especially as it had been postponed three times due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Teams

Team 1

Joshua Hewitt, Stephen, Richardson, Ian Shaw.

Team 2

Richard Gibney, Jonathan Moser, Nigel Day.

Team 3

Oliver Schepisi, Mike Higgins, Colin Denman.

Team 4

John Carpenter, Sam Hunt, Ben Andrew.

Team 5

Les Bryant, Mick Wyles, Kevin York, Simon Blake.

Team 6

Ashley Stower, Martin Elliott, Digory Little, Ben Andrew.

Prizes

- Best team - Team 1.
- Best individual - Mick Wyles, 36 points.
- Second place - Simon Blake, 35 points.
- Third place - Digory Little, 32 points.
- Nearest the pin - Digory Little.
- Longest drive - Mike Higgins.



Team 3.



Team 6.



Team 1.



Team 5.



Team 2.

Haltermann Carless increases visibility over fleet with Connect

Long-standing VTG customer, Haltermann Carless, now has visibility of its entire wagon fleet across Europe, through using VTG Connect.

Not only can it see where its wagons are but also obtain critical performance data, such as: the number of miles covered; if the wagons have stopped for any reason (and for how long) and each wagon's shock loading.

Haltermann Carless is a leading global supplier of high-value hydrocarbons and solvents. It also now has the ability to geo-fence, using GPS or RFID technology to create a virtual geographic boundary.

Raj Sharma, Sales Manager at VTG Rail, said: "Many customers are using this feature, which creates an alert when a wagon enters, or leaves, a user-defined area. It's particularly useful to give the teams a heads up on when to expect wagons for loading and unloading.

Stephen Richardson, Head of Logistics and Duty UK, Haltermann Carless added: "Not only does the VTG Connect system provide an overview of wagon location and mileage travelled on the fleet,

but it is also a useful portal for checking contracts and wagon maintenance schedules, which is critical for ensuring the fleet is used efficiently. The system also provides my team with real time locations for planning at both Haltermann Carless plants and third party sites."

Florenz Treschau, SVP Supply Chain Management, Haltermann Carless added: "VTG Connect and the traigo platform are for us an important step to further digitize our global supply chain especially adding more transparency of goods, which are in transit from suppliers and to our customers".

GROUP NEWS

Three in one! VTG wins digital award for traigo platform

VTG's traigo platform is gaining popularity, having scooped three awards this year: the German Mobility Prize, the Digital Leader Award and the Champions of the Digital Transformation 2021.

The German Mobility Prize, was awarded by the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI). The Digital Leader Award recognises ground-breaking transformation projects and is one of the biggest and best-known prizes in the digital leadership space.

UK NEWS

Supporting the rail freight community at Christmas

VTG Rail was delighted to attend and support the Rail Freight Group Christmas Lunch again. The 2021 festive event was an excellent opportunity to meet face to face with colleagues, customers and suppliers alike.





VTG's JNA Ts in 0778 pool with GB and Biffa traffic.

VTG wagons in use at GBRf and Biffa waste site

GB Railfreight (GBRf) and industrial waste management partners Biffa have joined forces to clean up the capital. The two companies have collaborated on an operation to turn derelict land into an emission-reducing transport hub. The site will help reduce the carbon footprint of waste management in the city and help make more efficient use of materials that would previously have gone to landfill.

An unused brownfield site in the east of London has been transformed into a transport hub, linking key waste sites around the capital. Waste management specialist Biffa, known around the country for commercial and contract waste handling, has teamed up with GB Railfreight (GBRf) to establish a new rail-served facility in the borough of Barking. The Renwick Road location, will be able

to transport 250,000 tonnes of waste from London by rail.

Transporting waste by rail is a key strategic aim for Biffa. The company is working towards transporting half of all its waste by rail by 2025. The Renwick Road collaboration represents the latest development of a strategic partnership with GBRf, which has been in place since 2018. In that time, over a million tonnes of waste has been transported by rail. According to the partners, that's saved more than one million tonnes of CO2 equivalent emissions from reaching the atmosphere.

"The opening of our new rail hub marks the next step in our strategic partnership with GBRf to increase our capacity for transportation by rail", said Mick Davis, the chief operating officer for the resources and energy division at Biffa. "It will help us reduce dependence on vehicles on the road and reduce the emissions we produce."



VTG Rail delighted to exhibit at Multimodal

VTG Rail was delighted to attend and support the Rail Freight Pavilion at last year's Multimodal Exhibition, which took place in October at the Birmingham NEC.

It was a great event and was well attended. It provided an excellent opportunity to meet up with customers and suppliers after months of lockdown and disruption caused by the Covid pandemic.



Chessington South brought back into freight service.

For the first time in over quarter of a century rail freight has returned to Chessington South. The former household coal distribution depot in South West London last saw rail deliveries from the British coalfields but now the site has a bright future supporting the construction industry. A 12 month programme by Wimbledon based Cappagh Group has seen years of tree growth replaced by a kilometre of new railway for the handling of aggregates. The site received the first train on the 10 December 2021 operated by DCRail using a short test rake of JNA-T wagons. Regular services are planned to start in January 2022 to serve Cappagh Group Infrastructure and utility customers in South West London and Surrey.



Words by David Fletcher. Photos Danny Sladdin, DCRail.

GROUP NEWS

VTG earns top marks in GRESB rankings

VTG has earned 96 out of 100 points in the Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark (GRESB). The company ranked 22nd among the 550 firms participating

worldwide in the infrastructure benchmark test, which put us in the top 4% of sustainable investments.

GRESB (Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark) is the leading international rating system that aims to measure the sustainability performance of companies in the real estate and infrastructure sectors. Performance is assessed in seven categories: management, policy & disclosure, management of risks

and opportunities, monitoring & environment management system (EMS), certifications, stakeholder engagement and performance indicators.

VTG also ranked 20th among 556 companies in the Management category, 32nd in the Performance category, and 2nd in the peer group of six European rail freight companies.

Send us your news

Do you have a news item you would like us to include in the next edition of ONLINE?

We always welcome input for the newsletter and would love to hear from you.

Whether you are a member of VTG Rail staff, an existing customer or have worked with us as a project partner, please feel free to get in touch any time to share your news.

Please email Anna Kobzda at anna.kobzda@vtg.com to let us know and we'll be happy to consider it for publication in the next issue.