

ONLINE

VTG RAIL UK NEWSLETTER No.43



Former Rail Minister Huw Merriman is interviewed in front of the VTG iWagon on a visit to Merehead Rail Sidings and Torr Quarry in Somerset in May.

Rail Minister visit showcases VTG iWagon technology and advancing rail freight collaboration with MRL

The collaboration between rail freight companies VTG Rail UK, Mendip Rail, and Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems (UK) took centre stage as former Rail Minister, Huw Merriman, visited Merehead Rail Sidings and Torr Quarry in Somerset in May.

The highlight of the tour was the presentation of the ground-breaking iWagon, a partnership between VTG Rail

UK and Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems (UK), which is poised to redefine rail freight performance with enhanced safety measures, operational efficiencies, and increased wagon availability.

With cutting-edge technology developed by dedicated engineers and innovators from VTG and Knorr-Bremse, the iWagon integrates state-of-the-art sensors, data

analytics, and automation to elevate safety, performance, and reliability standards of rail freight wagons.

Huw Merriman said: "I'm a strong supporter of the rail freight sector, which has a huge role to play not only in keeping our economy moving but in an environmentally friendly way too. Exciting new developments like this are a

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VTG iWagon wins Innovation of the Year at the 2024 Rail Business Awards (see page 7).

Welcome

Colin Denman, Managing Director, VTG Rail UK.

As we reach the halfway point of 2024, it is a good time to look back on all that has been achieved so far this year.

There have been many exciting developments and milestones reached for VTG Rail UK. We were delighted to showcase the ground-breaking iWagon to the then Rail Minister, Huw Merriman, at Merehead Rail Sidings back in May. This was a great opportunity to host key figures from across the industry, along with significant stakeholders and decision makers, and show them how the iWagon will revolutionise rail freight.

Just weeks after the event we were proud to sign the world's first (of many) iWagon customers in Heidelberg Materials UK. I suppose it would be fair to say that 2024 is fast becoming the Year of the iWagon as we recognise that a product over a decade in the making is now in production, being used by industry, bringing state of the art safety benefits and providing data which can be used to realise greater efficiencies.

The iWagon is a collaboration between VTG Rail UK and our partners at Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems UK. Together, we were proud to be awarded Innovation of the Year at this year's Rail Business Awards. We are also shortlisted for our iWagon collaboration in the Rail Freight Group Awards and the National Rail Awards - the winners of each will be announced in September. Fingers crossed!

Working across industry and collaborating with our partners is something that is very important to me and to VTG. That is why I am pleased to sit on the Wagon Condition Programme (WCP) Board, a group which has brought the industry together to build on existing maintenance and train preparation practices on a programme of continuous improvement in wagon safety.

The programme was developed earlier this year and has already gained support from the wider industry including the RSSB, ORR, Network Rail and the Rail Wagon Association, of which I am chairman. While the strategic aim of the programme is to reduce any operational risks of wagons entering the network, I must say that rail freight is inherently safe, with an excellent safety record and the WCP is about the professionalism of always striving for continuous improvement.

In this edition of ONLINE magazine, we hear from VTG GmbH CEO Alberto Nobis about the exciting future ahead for our company. In June we announced a €730 million US Private Placements transaction which will bring many benefits and underscores the unwavering support of our long-term and new investors. Alberto visited us in May and was delighted to see VTG's UK operations in action. Read more on pages 8-9.



As always, it is the people within VTG that make our company the success that it is. As you will have seen in previous editions of ONLINE, we love to have some time out from the office and depots to socialise with our team. We took a trip to Birmingham's 'Flight Club' in May for a competitive and fun-filled team darts tournament. From the flight of darts to impressive aerial displays, our next VTG team day out took place in June, when we treated our colleagues and their families to a great day out at the Midlands Air Festival.

Building a great team is key to a successful company and is one of the reasons that I believe VTG enjoys excellent staff retention rates. I would like to congratulate our Fleet Controller, Janet Sheppard, for 20 years' dedicated service to VTG. Thank you for all that you do, Janet, it is greatly appreciated by the whole team.

I hope you all enjoy reading this issue of ONLINE and best wishes for an enjoyable summer.

From the VTG team to yours,
Colin

Contact the VTG Rail UK team...

If you would like to discuss anything in this newsletter, the work of VTG Rail UK or to speak with a member of our team, please contact us at: marketing@vtg.com | www.uk.vtg.com | 0121 421 9180

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UK News

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perfect example of the industry using cutting-edge technology to power toward our ambitious growth target."

Commenting on the Minister's visit, Colin Denman, Managing Director of VTG Rail UK, emphasised the collaborative ethos driving industry progress, stating: "It was a pleasure to show the Rail Minister the huge advantages that the iWagon will

Together, we are innovating, developing and implementing game changing technology.

"Thanks to the iWagon, our industry can see how axles perform on the network in real-time and see where adhesion issues are occurring. Digitisation allows us to prevent wheelset damage and axle locks, ensuring multiple parties are given

that rail freight operates on the network and they're going to bring huge benefits to productivity, to safety and to the appeal of rail freight to our customers. It's brilliant to see the uptake of technology and the new initiatives that are coming on stream."

During the visit, the Minister also gained insights into the enduring partnership spanning over two decades between VTG and Mendip Rail, which removes the equivalent of 400,000 lorry movements every year from the roads. In addition, rail offers significant environmental benefits by offering 76% CO2 reduction versus road deliveries.

Mendip Rail, a joint venture between Aggregate Industries and Heidelberg Materials, is a major player in aggregate transportation. It moves over nine million tonnes of material yearly from the quarries in the Mendip Hills to terminals in London and the South-East for various construction projects, underlining the vital role of rail freight in infrastructure development.

Alberto Nobis, CEO of VTG GmbH, said: "The relationship we have with Mendip Rail is one of the best we have in Europe. They are a perfect customer because they have invested into the rail solution as part of their supply chain, so, for us, this is the perfect environment in which to provide a state-of-the-art solution for our client."

(Continued over)



Marc Hurn, Sales & Marketing Director, VTG Rail UK, outlines the cutting-edge technology developed by dedicated engineers and innovators from VTG and Knorr-Bremse, to invited guests at Merehead.

bring to the rail freight industry. The iWagon, which we work on jointly with our partners at Knorr-Bremse, will revolutionise rail freight.

"Alongside this, our long-standing and successful partnership with Mendip Rail ensures that a huge number of lorry movements are diverted from our congested roads, and on to rail. At VTG Rail UK we have great working relationships with our industry partners. Collaborating with them brings many benefits to the rail freight industry and beyond and it is the mature way to do business."

Paul Goodhand, Managing Director of Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems (UK), echoed this sentiment, highlighting the transformative impact of the iWagon on industry safety and performance. He said: "Rail freight already has a good track record for safety but that doesn't mean that we should stop striving for even better. Our partnership with VTG on the iWagon is a monumental breakthrough for our whole industry.

information quickly allowing appropriate corrective action. These are exciting times for rail freight."

Maggie Simpson OBE, Director General of the Rail Freight Group, said: "Initiatives like the iWagon are transforming the way



Sanjay Albert, Director of Engineering & Innovation, Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems (UK), demonstrates the Wheel Flat Prevention technology on the iWagon to Huw Merriman.

UK News



Close to nine million tonnes of material are moved yearly from the quarries in the Mendip Hills to terminals in London and the South-East for various construction projects.

Damien Preece, General Manager of Mendip Rail, said: "It was our pleasure to host the Rail Minister and provide a platform for VTG and Knorr-Bremse to exhibit their exciting iWagon technology. Doing so amongst our working rail sidings really helps to bring the application of the technology to life. We move close to nine million tonnes of aggregate each year on VTG wagons so to see their commitment to improving rail freight safety through

technology is extremely reassuring and key to our strong partnership."

Maggie Simpson OBE, Director General of the Rail Freight Group, said: "Collaborations like the one we see at Mendip Rail are really important in rail freight. On site there is the rail freight operator, the quarry, Mendip Rail operations and maintenance facilities. That's a collaboration of different

businesses working seamlessly together. Every night they despatch dozens of trains, sending millions of tonnes of aggregate to London and the South-East and across the country. It really couldn't work without the dedication of all those companies and all those people working together."

The visit underscored the commitment of industry leaders to advancing rail freight capabilities, heralding a new era of safety, efficiency, and sustainability in the sector.

Watch the video!

CLICK HERE to view footage and interviews filmed at Merehead Rail Sidings and Torr Quarry in Somerset.



(L-R): Richard Bew (Business Development Director, Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems UK), Sanjay Albert (Director of Engineering & Innovation, Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems UK), Paul Goodhand (Managing Director, Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems UK), Huw Merriman (former Rail Minister), Marc Hurn (Sales & Marketing Director, VTG Rail UK), Archie Lucas (Sales & Account Manager, VTG Rail UK), Nigel Day (Business Improvement Director, VTG Rail UK) and Colin Denman (Managing Director, VTG Rail UK) in front of the VTG iWagon during the visit to Merehead Rail Sidings in May.

VTG Rail UK welcomes FIRST customer to adopt ground-breaking iWagon technology

Heidelberg Materials UK has won the race to become the first company in the world to adopt VTG Rail UK's ground-breaking iWagon system, saying its decision to retrofit its entire wagon fleet with the technology was a "no-brainer".

Heidelberg Materials UK currently leases 32 JPA wagons from VTG Rail UK, which will be retrofitted with the iWagon technology. In addition, the company has placed an order with VTG Rail UK for a further 32 new build JPA wagons which will all feature the iWagon system.

The iWagon is poised to transform rail freight with its advanced safety features and operational efficiencies, which are also expected to significantly increase wagon availability and reliability. This innovative technology represents a major leap forward in ensuring the safety and efficiency of rail operations.

Heidelberg Materials UK's decision to invest in iWagon is strongly influenced by recent UK rail incidents involving freight wagon derailments. This first iWagon order will see Heidelberg Materials UK's entire wagon fleet being retrofitted with the technology, with installation beginning from mid-November 2024.

Marc Hurn, Sales and Marketing Director at VTG Rail UK, said: "The adoption of iWagon by Heidelberg Materials UK marks a significant milestone in rail freight



Marc Hurn, Sales & Marketing Director, VTG Rail UK and Clare Soper, Operations Director UK Supply Chain Cement Distribution, Heidelberg Materials UK.

safety and efficiency, setting a new standard for the industry. In addition, because of the benefits iWagon technology brings it allows for cost effectiveness for customers in the commercial environment.

"The rail freight industry already has a good safety record, the development of iWagon makes it even safer. VTG Rail UK looks forward to seeing the positive impacts of iWagon on the rail freight industry and continuing to drive advancements in rail technology."

Clare Soper, Operations Director UK Supply Chain Cement Distribution for

Heidelberg Materials UK, said: "Safety is our number one priority, so embracing VTG's new iWagon technology was a no-brainer for us.

"We have carried out a lot of research into the system and it is clear that it will make our fleet safer by preventing incidents happening in the future.

"I am very excited to see the benefits iWagon will bring and proud to be the first in the world to use it, leading the way in adopting state-of-the-art solutions to enhance rail safety and operational performance."

[CLICK HERE> to watch the video](#)

iWagon technology showcased in RFG webinar

In June, Nigel Day, Business Improvement Director at VTG Rail UK, and Sanjay Albert, Director of Engineering and Innovation at Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems (UK), led an in-depth discussion on the features of the ground-breaking iWagon technology during a webinar hosted by Maggie Simpson OBE, Director General of the Rail Freight Group.

During the webinar, Nigel and Sanjay provided detailed insights into the

technology that sets iWagon apart and how it promises to transform the rail freight industry. They emphasised the strategic importance of iWagon, highlighting its potential to enhance efficiency and sustainability in rail operations.

Delving into the technical aspects of the iWagon, Nigel and Sanjay showcased how the collaboration between VTG Rail UK and Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems (UK) has resulted in a

product that addresses key industry challenges.

The webinar also featured a Q&A session where participants had the opportunity to ask questions about the iWagon's capabilities, deployment, and future developments. Both Nigel and Sanjay expressed their enthusiasm for ongoing innovation and collaboration within the industry.

[CLICK HERE> to watch webinar](#)

Direct Rail Services take delivery of 25 new JNA-Z box wagons from VTG Rail UK

A fleet of 25 brand new JNA-Z box wagons from VTG Rail UK has entered traffic for Direct Rail Services (DRS).

The wagons were built by WH Davis at its Shirebrook facility and will be operated by Nuclear Transport Solutions' (NTS) rail division DRS. Each wagon's gross laden weight is 101.6 tonnes, and the tare weight is 24.2t meaning that the payload is 77.4t.

VTG Rail UK Sales Manager Archie Lucas said: "We had the privilege of attending WH Davis' Shirebrook site to witness the collection of these 25 newly built JNA-Z box wagons. It's great to see these wagons coming off the production line and into service for our valued customer DRS, for whom these wagons will become part of a wider fleet supplied by VTG Rail UK, further cementing a positive working relationship between our companies.

"VTG works closely with operators across the UK rail network to ensure timely and safe delivery of goods and we are delighted to see these brand new wagons in service."

Gottfried Eymer, NTS Managing Director for Rail, said: "These new wagons are an excellent addition to our portfolio and



Representatives from VTG Rail UK and Direct Rail Services visited WH Davis' facility in Shirebrook back in February to view the impressive new JNA-Z wagons.

will enable us to provide new services to our customers.

"These are very exciting times, and the wagons offer a huge amount of flexibility, not to mention that each train we operate can take up to 60 lorries from the roads and offer CO2 savings of 76% when compared to road transport."

The new wagons take the number of wagons used by DRS, that are leased from VTG Rail UK, from 115 to 140, further

diversifying the portfolio, with the previous hires all involving intermodal wagons.

The wagons are being hired via a wet lease, meaning that VTG Rail UK will also provide maintenance. Archie Lucas added: "It's good to work with WH Davis and support UK manufacturing whilst also delivering a robust set of wagons for our customer."

[CLICK HERE>](#) to watch the video



Fresh from the production line, the robust JNA-Z box wagons will add a new dimension to DRS' wagon fleet.

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VTG iWagon wins Innovation of the Year

The VTG Rail UK team was victorious at the Rail Business Awards held in Manchester in February, as iWagon won its first award in the industry, after being launched in October 2023.

Our innovative collaboration with Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems UK has been awarded Innovation of the Year at the 2024 Rail Business Awards.

Speaking after the announcement, Colin Denman said: "We're thrilled that the industry is as excited as we are about the technology which will revolutionise rail freight with new capabilities; iWagon will benefit VTG, rail freight companies, and freight operators.

"The whole VTG Rail UK Ltd team will be jubilant due to the hard work that has gone into making this all possible. We really believe with iWagon we will achieve new heights and not only the performance of rail freight but also the relations of those that adopt the technology."

The iWagon's success at the awards is a testament to VTG's commitment to innovation and excellence in the rail



(L-R): Paul Goodhand (Knorr-Bremse), John May (Knorr-Bremse), Raj Sharma (VTG), Archie Lucas (VTG), Nigel Day (VTG), Sanjay Albert (Knorr-Bremse) and Colin Denman (VTG).

freight industry. This cutting-edge technology is designed to enhance operational efficiency, reduce environmental impact, and improve safety standards. By incorporating advanced digital capabilities, the iWagon offers real-time data monitoring and predictive maintenance features, enabling operators to optimise performance and minimise downtime.

This forward-thinking approach not only sets a new standard in rail freight technology, it also underscores VTG's dedication to driving progress and sustainability within the sector. As VTG continues to pioneer innovative solutions, the iWagon's recognition serves as a milestone in their journey towards transforming the future of rail freight.

VTG Rail UK explores sustainability initiatives with Drax Group

In February, Colin Denman and Marc Hurn were privileged to receive an exclusive invitation to visit Drax Group's power station in Selby. As the largest dispatchable renewable power station in the UK, Drax is a cornerstone in the nation's energy landscape, and this visit offered an unparalleled opportunity to delve into their pioneering operations.

During the visit, Colin and Marc were granted an all-access tour of the expansive and technologically advanced site. They observed a variety of wagons in operation, gaining insightful knowledge about the logistical and operational intricacies that enable Drax to maintain its position at the forefront of renewable energy production.

The tour highlighted the meticulous

planning and innovative solutions employed by Drax to optimise their supply chain and ensure efficient, sustainable energy dispatch.

A key takeaway from the visit was the shared commitment to sustainability between Drax and VTG Rail UK. Both companies are deeply invested in advancing their sustainability agendas, recognising the crucial role that sustainable practices play in the future of energy and logistics. Both parties are eager to explore innovative solutions that reduce environmental impact and promote greener industry standards.

Colin Denman expressed his enthusiasm about the visit, stating, "The tour of Drax's power station was incredibly enlightening. Seeing their operations up close reinforced our shared vision of

sustainability. We are always excited about building new relationships that help the industry meet its sustainability goals."



A new era - Alberto Nobis outlines exciting future for VTG

Alberto Nobis, CEO of VTG GmbH attended the recent iWagon showcase event and site tour held at Merehead Rail Sidings and Torr Quarry in May where he spoke about his plans for the business.



Alberto Nobis, CEO of VTG GmbH visited our operations in May when he attended the iWagon showcase event and site tour at Merehead Rail Sidings and Torr Quarry in Somerset.

“VTG is the industry leader for wagons and leasing because we believe we have the best engineering and design solutions and also because we have invested heavily in digitalisation,” these are the words of Alberto Nobis, CEO of VTG GmbH.

Alberto visited our UK operations back in May when he attended the iWagon showcase event and site tour at Merehead Rail Sidings in Somerset. During the visit Alberto spoke about VTG’s exciting future.

In late June 2024 the company announced the successful closing of a €730 million US Private Placements transaction, marking a significant achievement and underscoring the unwavering support of long-term and new investors.

The benefits of the strategic move are:

- Refinancing a €530 million bank loan
- Investing in new railcars and refinancing of CapEx facility outstanding over the next 12 months
- Securing very long-dated maturities of up to 25 years

Alberto said: “This is a very exciting opportunity which is predicated on technology improvements, the expansion of our fleet, modernisation and providing a more efficient solution for our customers.

“I’m new to the rail freight industry and to VTG and I’m looking forward to everything that is ahead of us; it’s a bright future for our customers and for the entire industry.”

Alberto also spoke about the pivotal role that the VTG iWagon will play in the company’s future. “The iWagon, a solution created by VTG, is a breakthrough moment for the entire rail freight sector,” he said. “The iWagon technology can benefit all stakeholders and not just here in the UK, but in mainland Europe too and because VTG operates on a European scale it means we have the widest range of wagons available for any kind of industry which is of great benefit to our customers.”

Alberto explained the many benefits to the new iWagon technology. “The first and foremost benefit, of course, is safety,” he said. “So, the basic concept of the iWagon is that it can prevent incidents from happening because it’s controlling the operation of the wheel on the rail. That’s the number one benefit. But there are also many other values for our customers and stakeholders.

“With the GPS we can localise the system that is required to maintain the best operation and the GPS will also identify exactly the point where the problem is.” That data can be shared with the railway system operator and this can create opportunities for more efficient, safer and a more modern exchange of data that will benefit the entire industry.”

Group News



Industry collaboration... (L-R): Richard Bew (Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems UK), Colin Denman (VTG Rail UK), Kai Barker (Aggregate Industries) and Alberto Nobis (VTG GmbH) take in the sights at Torr Quarry from the viewing platform during the recent site tour.

size, and how they operate, means that we are able to collaborate together on joint research and communication to continue to learn from each other."

Alberto also spoke of challenges facing the business and rail freight. He said: "As with any business, we have challenges. I would say that the number one challenge is that we are part of a big ecosystem; the rail system, which needs to be able to deliver the benefits expected by all the European community.

"This means rail needs to become a more viable solution in freight transportation. The VTG iWagon is definitely a component in this. But it fundamentally cannot be an expensive solution. There are many things that need to happen concurrently. For instance, the investment from the owners of the rail system to make sure that the network is upgraded in terms of capacity.

"Another challenge is that as a single operator we are not able to solve the overall physical challenges in the industry but this can instead be achieved through strong industry collaboration among all the different actors in the system.

"This is what we are doing, further building relationships and good collaboration with clients, vendors and the operators in the industry."

"Our aim, ultimately, is to create the condition by which the economy will benefit from our joint efforts to make the system more effective, so that the share of trade will increase. Here in the UK it is lower than 10% for rail freight and for the rest of Europe it is below 20%, so there is a huge amount of benefit that we can create in terms of reducing CO2."

Technology, he said, would enhance VTG's market offering. "The iWagon and digitalisation create the opportunity to reallocate resources, capital and energy into other elements of our value chain that are attractive for our customers," he said.

During Alberto's visit to Merehead Quarry he was also able to see first-hand the excellent relationship that VTG has with its customer, Mendip Rail, which has spanned 21 years.

Mendip Rail was heavily involved in trials of the iWagon, which began in October 2023, with three wagons fitted with the technology deployed on its Whatley/Merehead to Avonmouth and West Drayton flows.

"Our relationship with Mendip Rail is one of the best relationships that VTG has in Europe," Alberto said: "They are a perfect customer because they have invested into the rail solution as part of their supply chain. This is a perfect environment in which to provide a state-of-the-art solution for our clients. Their

"I would say the number one challenge is that as a single operator we are not able to solve the overall physical challenges in the industry but this can instead be achieved through strong industry collaboration among all the different actors in the system."

Alberto Nobis, CEO of VTG GmbH



Nigel Day, Business Improvement Director, VTG Rail UK, outlines the ground-breaking technology which has been fitted on the iWagon to Alberto Nobis during the visit to Merehead Rail Sidings.

VTG Rail UK welcomes Joe Grady as new Sales & Account Manager

We are thrilled to welcome on board Joe Grady as our new Sales & Account Manager. Joe steps into this role following Raj Sharma's transition to the engineering department, and we are confident that he will excel in his new position and continue the excellent work Raj has done.

With seven years of experience in sales and account management, Joe brings a wealth of knowledge to VTG Rail UK. His most recent role as a Commercial Account Manager in the logistics sector has equipped him with valuable skills that will aid his transition to the rail freight industry. Reflecting on his new role, Joe said, "I am new to the rail industry, but am relishing the opportunity to grow within a successful and reputable business."

Throughout his career, Joe has built and maintained strong business relationships with global partners, including a notable tenure with Nintendo, where he was responsible for budget assessment, cost control, and revenue growth. Additionally, as a Sales Executive in the aerospace industry for five years, he managed aircraft servicing for 18 clients in the EMEA region, honing his skills in meeting customer needs and ensuring high levels of customer satisfaction and retention.

Joe expressed his enthusiasm for joining VTG Rail UK, stating, "I am really pleased to have joined VTG and I am looking forward to gaining a thorough understanding of the business and the industry, as well as adding value to the team's shared goals and growing relationships with clients."

Marc Hurn, VTG Rail UK's Sales and Marketing Director, also shared his excitement about Joe's appointment: "I would like to welcome Joe to the VTG family and our superb customer base. He brings passion and experience from outside the traditional rail industry, and I look forward to the benefits this will bring. I wish him all the success."



Marc Hurn attends Rail Partners freight reception



In March, VTG Rail UK's Sales & Marketing Director Marc Hurn had the pleasure of attending the Rail Partners Freight Reception held at the House of Commons' Terrace Pavilion.

The event was an informative gathering that underscored the essential role of rail freight in the UK economy and highlighted ambitions to further shift transport from road to rail.

The reception brought together parliamentarians, Rail Partners members, their customers, and other stakeholders to celebrate the potential of rail freight in driving green economic growth. It coincided with the launch of Rail Partners' report, *Freight Britain: An Engine for Green Growth*.

Speakers included Andy Bagnall, Chief Executive, Rail Partners, Andrea Rossi, CEO, DB Cargo UK and Huw Merriman, former Rail Minister, and Bill Esterson, Shadow Minister for Transport

Marc had the opportunity to engage with the former Minister, discussing the future of rail freight and its role in sustainable transportation. The reception was a testament to the collaborative efforts needed to promote rail freight and its benefits for the UK's economic and environmental landscape.

VTG's iWagon receives high commendation at Railway Innovation Awards

The VTG iWagon was honoured with a Highly Commended certificate at the prestigious Railway Innovation Awards held in June. As the longest-standing awards scheme in the industry, the Railway Innovation Awards celebrate the brightest ideas and advancements in the railway sector.

This annual event brings together industry leaders and innovators to discuss and recognise significant contributions to railway technology and operations. Being shortlisted and highly commended in such a competitive field is a testament to the innovative capabilities and impact of the iWagon.

VTG Rail UK is thrilled to be recognised for its dedication to advancing rail freight technology. This accolade underscores the company's commitment to delivering cutting-edge solutions that drive the industry forward.

People

Fun night out at Flight Club!



In May, members of the VTG Rail UK team enjoyed a unique and exciting night out at Flight Club in Birmingham. This fun-filled evening featured social darts tournaments, making it a memorable team-building experience for everyone involved.

Teams competed against each other across multiple oches - strategy and team selection played a key role, with each team coming up with creative and spirited names. Scores were kept on a leaderboard, maintaining a competitive edge throughout the evening.

The grand finale saw the two highest-scoring teams go head-to-head in an epic showdown. The victorious team not only earned ultimate bragging rights, but was also awarded with Flight Club medals, making the night even more special.

Overall, the event was a huge success, highlighting the camaraderie and competitive spirit of the VTG Rail UK team. The evening at Flight Club in Birmingham was a perfect blend of fun, food, and friendly competition.

Janet Sheppard celebrates 20 years at VTG Rail UK



VTG Rail UK Ltd is proud to celebrate an impressive milestone as Janet Sheppard, our dedicated Fleet Controller, marks 20 years with the company.

Janet's two decades of service have been characterised by her unwavering commitment, exceptional expertise, and vibrant personality, making her an invaluable member of the VTG family.

Janet is a wonderful colleague and a beloved character in the office, known for her professionalism and the positive energy she brings to the team. Her contributions over the years have played a significant role in VTG Rail UK's success and growth.

Everyone at VTG would like to extend their heartfelt congratulations to Janet on reaching this incredible landmark. Her dedication and hard work have not only shaped her career but also enriched the entire VTG community.

Here's to many more years of success with Janet at VTG Rail UK!

VTG Rail UK team enjoys thrilling day at Midlands Air Festival

In June, the VTG Rail UK team and their families enjoyed an exhilarating day out at the Midlands Air Festival. This exciting event, held against the stunning backdrop of the English countryside, featured a variety of impressive aerial displays and colourful

hot air balloons. The team revelled in the spectacular performances by vintage aircraft, aerobatic teams, and the breath-taking sight of mass balloon ascents. It was a perfect opportunity for colleagues to relax, bond, and share in the awe-inspiring feats of aviation.



UK News

Online wagon catalogue available for customers

An online catalogue showcasing all available wagons from VTG Rail UK is available to download (see link below).

Aimed at enhancing our commercial offerings and simplifying the enquiry process for customers, this service is designed to assist both existing clients looking to augment their fleets and new customers entering the rail freight sector. Details available to potential customers include the wagon's specifications, broken down to gross laden weight, tare weight, payload, wagon length and bogie type. Furthermore, it provides descriptions of the wagons and what loads they would be suitable for.

Hopper Wagon: IIA-B

Covered high-volume hopper wagon suitable for low density commodities.

Gross Laden Weight (t):	101.6
Tare Weight (t):	23.6
Payload (t):	78
Length (mm):	15,193
Bogie Type:	TF25
Qty Available:	20

Hopper Wagon: HOA

Open hopper wagon suitable for aggregates and high density bulk commodities.

Gross Laden Weight (t):	101.6
Tare Weight (t):	24.1
Payload (t):	77.5
Length (mm):	15,193
Bogie Type:	TF25
Qty Available:	20

Box Wagon: JNA-A

Open top box wagon with an internal capacity of approx 57 cubic metres. Suitable for aggregates, scrap metal, spoil and other similar commodities.

Gross Laden Weight (t):	101.6
Tare Weight (t):	23.15
Payload (t):	78.45
Length (mm):	13,970
Bogie Type:	3-Piece
Qty Available:	63

Special Wagon: KWA

Well wagon suitable for carrying plant machinery such as diggers etc. Optional self-loading ramp and platform. Suitable for excavators and plant machinery.

Gross Laden Weight (t):	57
Tare Weight (t):	25.2
Payload (t):	31.8
Length (mm):	17,060
Bogie Type:	VNH1
Qty Available:	30

Hopper Wagon: HQA

Open hopper wagon for the transport and application of railway ballast. Suitable for small aggregates, sand and other similar commodities.

Gross Laden Weight (t):	90
Tare Weight (t):	25
Payload (t):	65
Length (mm):	17,200
Bogie Type:	AM1
Qty Available:	10 (2 x 5)

Hopper Wagon: HHA-E

Open hopper wagon with an internal capacity of 55 cubic metres and capable of 75mph in tare state. Suitable for small aggregates, sand and other similar commodities.

Gross Laden Weight (t):	101.6
Tare Weight (t):	24.5
Payload (t):	77.1
Length (mm):	15,200
Bogie Type:	TF25
Qty Available:	7

Hopper Wagon: IIA-C

Covered high volume wagon with automatic top door operation triggered by magnetic door control sensors. Suitable for biomass, wood chippings and other similar commodities.

Gross Laden Weight (t):	101.6
Tare Weight (t):	27.7
Payload (t):	73.9
Length (mm):	18,339
Bogie Type:	TF25
Qty Available:	24

To enquire, please contact: salesuk@vtg.com 0121 421 9180



To download the online catalogue click [HERE](#)>

VTG Rail UK shortlisted for prestigious awards for iWagon collaboration

We are delighted to have been shortlisted for several prestigious awards this year, thanks to our innovative collaboration with Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems UK for the iWagon project.

At the RFG Awards, we have been nominated in both the Rail Freight Project of the Year and Innovation &

Talent categories. This recognition highlights the groundbreaking nature of our iWagon project and the exceptional talent driving its continued success.

In addition, iWagon has been shortlisted as a finalist in the Freight & Logistics Achievement of the Year category at the National Rail Awards, further

underscoring its significant impact on the industry. We are honoured to be recognised and wish all finalists the very best of luck at both awards which take place in September!



People

VTG Clay Pigeon Shoot 2024

In June, VTG Rail UK brought together key members of the rail industry for an exciting day of clay pigeon shooting at Ian Coley Sporting Ltd. The event was a resounding success, providing a perfect mix of camaraderie, competition, and enjoyment for all participants, including the novices.

Congratulations to Eddie Pollock, pictured here receiving his prize from VTG Rail UK Managing Director, Colin Denman, for his excellent shooting skills, earning him the top spot of the day. It was a pleasure to witness the improvement and enthusiasm from all those who participated!

A big thank you to everyone who joined us. We look forward to hosting more such events in the future, continuing to foster relationships and create memorable experiences.



The VTG clay pigeon shoot proved a resounding success, providing a perfect mix of camaraderie, competition, and enjoyment for everyone who joined us.

Railway Benefit Fund's Station to Station challenge

In May, six dedicated members of the VTG Rail UK team participated in the Railway Benefit Fund's Station to Station Challenge.

This unique virtual steps challenge spanned a 2,000-mile route, allowing participants to metaphorically visit 23 iconic stations across the country.

Representing VTG Rail UK were Colin Denman, Archie Lucas, Caitlin Lippitt, Louise Alcock, Chris Parker, and Maria Connolly. Competing against several other companies, they showcased remarkable dedication throughout the three-week event.

The collective efforts of all the teams who took part were astounding, with participants amassing a total of 26,938,077 steps. This remarkable feat equates to an impressive 11,920 miles, which is the equivalent of running over 450 marathons!

Moreover, the challenge was not only about fitness, but also about contributing to a worthy cause. Approximately £5,000 was raised to support the Railway Benefit Fund, a testament to all the participants' dedication and the event's success.

Colin Denman expressed VTG Rail UK's commitment to supporting valuable causes: "VTG Rail UK is always keen to support where we can, and the Railway Benefit Fund is an organisation we are proud to be involved with."

Congratulations to all the teams and individuals who took part in this challenging yet highly rewarding event. The combined efforts and generous spirit of everyone involved have made a significant impact.

Follow us on Instagram!

Instagram is where we'll be sharing the more visual side of VTG Rail UK so you can see the business from another angle and feel even closer. Give us a follow @vtgrailuk to keep up-to-date with the UK's largest wagon lessor; stay connected with the VTG family.



Careers at VTG Rail UK

Are you looking for a career that combines efficiency and sustainability with a passion for rail? Then why not work with VTG Rail UK? To view our current vacancies, please click [HERE >](#)

For more details, contact Debbie Field, VTG Rail UK, HR & Office Manager: debbie.field@vtg.com

UK News

VTG Rail UK and Predge expand collaboration for digital transformation and predictive maintenance

For several years, VTG Rail UK has partnered with Swedish data solutions specialist Predge to drive predictive maintenance and digital transformation.

This collaboration is now set to extend, enhancing intelligence and automation within VTG Rail UK's digital processes, furthering our digital vision.

Colin Denman, Managing Director of VTG Rail UK, expressed his enthusiasm about the extended partnership, stating: "Predge allows us to work towards our vision of improving the performance of rail freight. The digital innovation provides us with more detailed information about wagon and wheel performance.

"Implementing predictive maintenance is revolutionising our processes,

transforming what was once thought impossible into reality, and streamlining our operations."

VTG Rail UK is leading the charge in revolutionising rail freight, aiming to make it a more competitive and efficient mode of transportation. Our innovative use of intelligent wagons and commitment to digital enhancements underscore this ambition, focusing on optimising and streamlining rail freight operations.

Simo Pykälistö, CEO of Predge, remarked, "The long-term cooperation with VTG Rail UK and their high ambitions in digitalisation, innovation, and predictive maintenance confirm that Predge and our analytics capabilities are well-suited for the UK rail industry. I am excited to

work together with VTG Rail UK and jointly deliver concrete value to their rail operations and the UK rail freight industry in general."

The partnership between Predge and VTG Rail UK is proof of a close collaboration evolving in iterations by exploring new opportunities for further value creation.

Colin Denman adds: "VTG have full confidence in Predge and we look forward to continuing this flourishing relationship to benefit those within the industry."



Group News

Bringing non-craneable semi trailers onto the rails

Global logistics company Samskip, renowned for its comprehensive transport and related services across land, sea, rail, and air, is committed to cost-efficient, reliable, and environmentally friendly solutions.

To enhance flexibility and sustainability in its transport operations, the Rotterdam-based firm is increasingly utilising combined transport methods, leveraging T3000 intermodal wagons and the innovative r2L solution. This advanced multi-function wagon is ideal for transporting various trailer types and, when paired with the r2L technology, offers a cost-effective solution for handling non-craneable semitrailers.



Co-developed by VTG and logistics provider VEGA International, this technology allows around 95 percent of semitrailers in the EU to be rail-transported, thus enabling combined transport.

Alieke van Zuthem, Head of Rail Operations at Samskip, said: "These wagons allow us to transport both mega and standard trailers by rail, offering a sustainable, fast, and reliable service to our customers. The recent integration of r2L carriers has further enhanced our service by accommodating non-craneable trailers within our rail network.

"Our network terminals have been expertly trained by VTG and VEGA in loading and unloading procedures to ensure smooth handling. We transport a wide range of goods sustainably by rail, including items for the food, furniture, automotive, and packaging industries.

"Rail transport is central to Samskip's operations. We are dedicated to addressing the environmental challenges facing our industry. Our mission is to make green logistics accessible, and expanding our rail network is crucial to this strategy.

"The r2L solution significantly broadens our capabilities for transporting non-craneable units by rail. This advancement supports our efforts to promote a modal shift from road to rail and aids in the decarbonisation of the logistics sector."

Samskip's partnership with VTG and adoption of the T3000/r2L solution marks a significant step forward in sustainable freight transport, ensuring the continued development and sustainability of combined transport methods.

Group News

VTG celebrates landmark project with opening of new Eco-Friendly workshop in Brandenburg

VTG Rail has announced the successful completion of its ground-breaking new construction project in Europe, the first of its kind in over 30 years.

This state-of-the-art workshop in the rural town of Grossräschen in the German state of Brandenburg, spanning 11,000 square metres, boasts an impressive maintenance capacity of approximately 2,000 freight wagons per year.

The grand opening of the workshop was celebrated in April with colleagues, partners, customers, and politicians. The event marked a significant milestone, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in bringing this project to fruition.

This facility not only expands VTG's portfolio of maintenance workshops, but also enhances our ability to provide top-notch service to our customers, furthering our mission to deliver first-class services that meet their evolving needs.

A cornerstone of this project is its alignment with our corporate sustainability strategy. The workshop is



The new state of the art workshop at Grossräschen boasts an impressive maintenance capacity of approximately 2,000 freight wagons per year.

fully CO₂-neutral, powered entirely by solar energy from panels installed on the roof. This commitment to green energy and innovative technologies

underscores our dedication to reducing environmental impact and promoting sustainable solutions.

Moreover, this new facility brings substantial economic benefits to the Grossräschen region by creating around 40 new jobs. We are excited to offer skilled professionals the chance to thrive in a dynamic and forward-looking environment.

VTG has had a presence at the Grossräschen facility since 2020, where it currently processes wagons that are returned when their leases expire.

Guido Beermann, Minister of Infrastructure and Regional Planning for the State of Brandenburg said: "Building the new maintenance workshop in Grossräschen is a tremendously positive signal for Brandenburg and the rural spaces in our state.

"The money invested here will create secure and highly qualified jobs as part of a sustainable, climate-friendly transport system. We look forward to seeing Grossräschen do its bit to advance green rail freight in Europe in the future."



The workshop is fully CO₂-neutral, powered entirely by solar energy from panels installed on the roof.

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Digital Intelligence for Rail Freight

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VTG Rail UK is the leading supplier and ECM of freight wagons in the UK

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