



2024 was an exceptional year for VTG Rail UK, picking up no fewer than three industry awards for their collaboration with Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems UK for iWagon, including the Freight and Logistics Achievement of the Year at the National Rail Awards.

## VTG Rail UK celebrates award-winning success for iWagon innovation in 2024

2024 was a phenomenal year for VTG Rail UK, with the revolutionary iWagon securing a hat-trick of prestigious industry awards. This cutting-edge innovation is transforming the rail freight industry by delivering unmatched safety improvements, operational efficiencies, and enhanced fleet availability.

Launched in October 2023, the iWagon quickly established itself as a game-changer. Its success reflects years of collaboration between VTG Rail UK and Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems UK, bringing together expertise to pioneer smarter rail freight solutions.

The awards season kicked off in February 2024, when VTG Rail UK and Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems UK took home the Innovation of the Year award at the Rail Business Awards in Manchester. Momentum continued into September, when the iWagon scooped two highly coveted national awards in one week with the Innovation and Talent Award at the Rail Freight Group Awards and the Freight and Logistics Achievement of the Year at the National Rail Awards.

Marc Hurn, Interim Managing Director at VTG Rail UK, said: "It has been a phenomenal year in terms of our work being recognised

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# Welcome

Marc Hurn, Interim Managing Director, VTG Rail UK.



Welcome to the latest edition of ONLINE magazine. 2024 was a big year for VTG Rail UK, and I think it's fair to say that for us, it truly was the 'Year of the iWagon!'

After more than a decade of development alongside our colleagues at Knorr-Bremse, we achieved a significant milestone by bringing the iWagon concept from a desktop vision to an operational reality. The iWagon is now out there in the market, delivering tangible benefits to rail freight, and we are thrilled to see the positive reception it has received.

Recently, we've been privileged to welcome several high-profile customers who have embraced this innovative technology, including Heidelberg Materials, Breedon, Alvanco British Aluminium, and Tarmac. As a result, we are proud to announce that, even at the start of this year, orders have been placed for over 300 wagons equipped with iWagon technology.

Our partnership with Knorr-Bremse has not only yielded a product that is revolutionising the rail freight industry but has also earned widespread recognition. In 2024, our collaborative work was honoured with three prestigious rail industry awards, a true testament to the dedication, diligence, and expertise within both organisations. To everyone who has played a part in bringing the iWagon project to life over the years: congratulations and thank you for your invaluable contributions.

2024 also brought its own set of challenges, particularly during one of the worst leaf fall seasons in recent memory. Thanks to the advanced technology of the iWagon, issues such as wheel slides caused by leaf fall can now be mitigated, ensuring safer and more efficient operations even under difficult conditions.

This is an incredibly exciting period for VTG Rail UK. Looking ahead, 2025 promises to be even more productive and impactful. With a robust pipeline of opportunities, ongoing investment in new wagons, and the development of additional cutting-edge technology, we are poised for significant growth. We look forward to sharing more updates on these developments as the year unfolds.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to our customers, suppliers, and partners for their ongoing support. Here's to a productive, collaborative, and successful 2025 for all of us.

Warm regards,  
Marc

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at the highest levels within the rail freight industry. Our expert team has worked alongside Knorr-Bremse for over 10 years to create the revolutionary iWagon technology that we see today, and we are all very proud to see it come to life.

"Alongside the recognition gained by winning these prestigious awards, we also have large companies within the rail freight industry coming on board and adopting iWagon technology within their fleets. This is just the beginning. The iWagon is set to grow even further during 2025 with more added technology to benefit our customers to create even safer and more operationally efficient wagons."

The iWagon offers an array of advantages, ensuring smarter, safer, and more sustainable rail freight operations:

- **Enhanced Visibility:** Identifies areas with increased wheel slide or damage to enable proactive action.
- **Smart Maintenance:** Shifts from periodic maintenance to condition-based servicing, offering greater accuracy, flexibility, and reduced carbon emissions.
- **Increased Safety:** Provides live monitoring of wheelset conditions to enable quick corrective action, improving reliability.
- **Advanced Data Analytics:** Integrates iWagon data with other sources to deliver actionable insights for fleet optimisation.
- **Sustainability:** Supports the decarbonisation of the economy by enabling customers to adopt climate-friendly rail freight solutions.

## Discover more

To learn how iWagon can revolutionise your operations, contact: [salesuk@vtg.com](mailto:salesuk@vtg.com) or click below to visit the VTG website

[Click here](#)

## 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](mailto:marketing@vtg.com) | [www.uk.vtg.com](http://www.uk.vtg.com) | 0121 421 9180

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# Mendip Rail welcomes delivery of new HOA hopper wagons from VTG

VTG Rail UK has completed the delivery of 136 out of 203 new HOA hopper wagons to Mendip Rail. The wagons, which were built for VTG at Greenbrier's wagon manufacturing facility in Poland, began arriving in batches of 34 to Whatley Rail Sidings last August. The remaining wagons are scheduled for completion and delivery by Q2 2025.

The order forms a substantial investment with the new HOA hopper wagons destined to replace the aging LTF and O&K JHA hopper fleets which have been in operation for Mendip Rail since they were built 35 years ago.

Marc Hurn, Interim Managing Director at VTG Rail UK, said: "We are delighted to see these brand-new HOA hopper wagons being delivered. VTG Rail UK has been the rolling stock partner of choice for Mendip Rail for more than 20 years and this very successful working relationship has been cemented even further with VTG completing this order for the MRL fleet."

With up to 200,000 tonnes of aggregate moved by rail from quarries in the Mendip Hills every week, each new hopper wagon has the capacity to carry 77 tonnes of aggregate. Much of the limestone transported from the quarries is moved

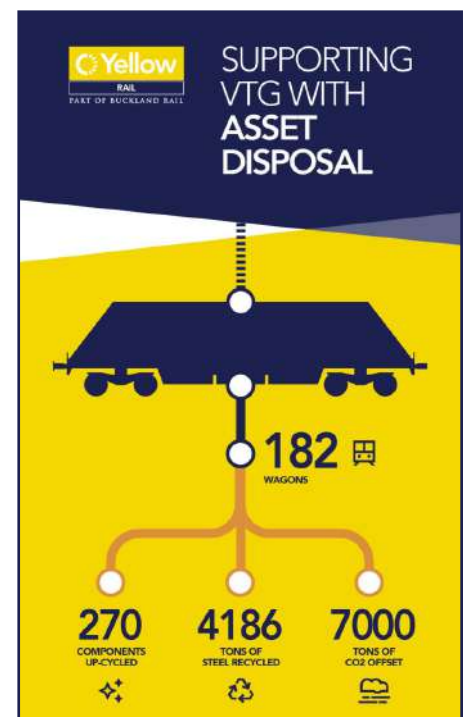
by Mendip Rail's 'jumbo trains' for use in construction and infrastructure projects in London and the South-East.

These mammoth trains typically consist of a mixture of between 40-50 hopper and box wagons, which equates to over 150 HGV road journeys, creating massive environmental savings and easing congestion on London's busy road network.

Joe Grady, Sales & Account Manager at VTG Rail UK said: "Delivering the first four batches of HOA hopper wagons marks a significant milestone in our on-going partnership with Mendip Rail. These state-of-the-art wagons are a testament to our commitment to modernising rail freight transport, ensuring efficiency, and reducing environmental impact."

Damien Preece, General Manager at Mendip Rail, said: "We are excited to welcome the first deliveries of our new HOA hopper wagons which will replace our ageing LTF and O&K fleet. Whilst we recognise the contribution and sheer volume of aggregate the outgoing wagons have delivered for both Aggregate Industries and Heidelberg Materials over the years, we are confident that replacing them will help us drive a

number of efficiencies at our quarries that in turn will enable us to increase our levels of customer service and improve our reliability on the network."



After 35 years of service, the O&K and LTF wagons operated by Mendip Rail are making way for the new fleet of HOA hopper wagons.

As the resident maintainer of 620 wagons across the Mendip Rail sites of Whatley and Merehead, Yellow Rail is proud to partner with VTG in a turnkey asset disposal programme.

With 100% of the materials from the outgoing wagons being recycled, feeding directly into a circular economy solution, this approach not only minimises waste but also sets an important precedent for sustainability in the rail industry.

As we look ahead to the future of rail freight, this project highlights how thoughtful planning and collaboration can make it more sustainable than ever.



The first batch of 34 new HOA hopper wagons arrived at Whatley Sidings in August 2024.

# VTG at the RFG Christmas Lunch 2024

The VTG Rail UK team was delighted to attend the annual Rail Freight Group (RFG) Christmas Lunch, a much-anticipated highlight of the rail freight calendar. Held in December, the event brought together over 800 members and guests from across the industry to celebrate the achievements of this vital and dynamic sector.

This year's lunch was not only an opportunity to network and celebrate but also a remarkable success in giving back. Attendees raised a record £8,700 for the RFG's chosen charity, the Railway Benefit Fund, which provides essential support to railway workers and their families.

One of the standout moments for the VTG team was hearing Guest of Honour, Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill, Minister for Rail,

speak passionately about the importance of rail freight in the UK. In his address, Lord Hendy specifically mentioned VTG Rail UK and Knorr-Bremse in connection with the innovative VTG iWagon. This groundbreaking technology has the potential to redefine efficiency and sustainability in rail freight operations, and it was exciting to hear it recognised at such a prestigious industry event.

As always, the RFG Christmas Lunch was a fantastic way to close out the year, fostering connections and celebrating the collective efforts of the rail freight community. VTG Rail UK is proud to be part of this thriving industry and looks forward to continuing to drive innovation and collaboration in the year ahead.



Guest of honour Lord Hendy of Richmond Hill CBE addresses guests at the RFG Christmas lunch.



VTG Rail UK representatives Joe Grady, Archie Lucas and Raj Sharma enjoy the RFG Christmas lunch.

## Competition time...

We are excited to announce the launch of our new photo competition, inviting rail enthusiasts, customers and colleagues to showcase their creativity and passion for the rail freight industry.

We'll award regular prizes to the best photos submitted, whether it's a stunning shot of our wagons in action, or a unique perspective of our wagons and operations.

Winning photos will not only receive recognition and a prize, but will also be featured in VTG Rail UK's communications, including our newsletter and social media. So grab your camera, get creative, and start capturing the power and elegance of VTG Rail in motion. Good luck!

**Send your VTG photos to: [marketing@vtg.com](mailto:marketing@vtg.com)**

Please mark the subject 'VTG Photo Competition' and make sure you include your contact details and a brief description of where your photo was taken. All entrants must agree to share copyright of photos submitted to VTG Rail UK.



# Lease renewal adds cutting-edge iWagon technology to Tarmac fleet

VTG Rail UK has announced the renewal of its lease agreement with leading construction solutions provider Tarmac for 30 JGA-M tank wagons.

The extended five-year agreement, which commenced on 01 January 2025, will see these wagons retrofitted with VTG's innovative iWagon technology, underscoring Tarmac's ongoing commitment to sustainability and efficiency in rail freight operations.

Marc Hurn, Interim Managing Director at VTG Rail UK, said: "The renewal of this lease demonstrates the value of the long-standing partnership between VTG Rail UK and Tarmac. Retrofitting these wagons with iWagon technology reflects VTG's shared commitment to innovation, sustainability, and operational excellence in rail freight."

The JGA-M wagons play a vital role in the transportation of powdered cement from Tarmac's Dunbar cement plant in Scotland and their Tunstead Quarry in Buxton. Each wagon boasts a gross laden weight of 101.6 tonnes, contributing to Tarmac's operations across the UK's rail network. With over 60 rail-connected sites, Tarmac is one of the country's largest rail freight users, transporting approximately nine million tonnes of high-quality construction materials annually to support regional and national infrastructure projects.

The retrofitting of VTG's iWagon technology represents a major step forward in the integration of smart systems into Tarmac's rail operations. Tarmac was a key partner in the successful iWagon trial initiated in 2023. This four month pilot involved the deployment of three modified VTG JPA tank wagons, which underwent testing on Tarmac's daily service from Dunbar to their Seaham depot in County Durham.

Chris Swan, Tarmac's Head of Rail, stated: "Rail freight is central to our



The JGA-M wagons play a vital role in the transportation of powdered cement from Tarmac's Dunbar cement plant in Scotland and their Tunstead Quarry in Buxton.

efforts to drive sustainability and reduce carbon emissions across our business. The renewal of this lease and the addition of iWagon technology will help us further enhance the safety, efficiency, and sustainability of our rail operations."

"The renewal of this lease and the addition of iWagon technology will help us further enhance the safety, efficiency, and sustainability of our rail operations."

Chris Swan, Tarmac's Head of Rail

Archie Lucas, Sales Manager at VTG Rail UK, added: "This agreement marks a significant milestone as Tarmac places its first order for wagons fitted with iWagon technology. We are proud to work with Tarmac in bringing forward smarter,

more efficient solutions that will enhance the performance and reliability of their rail operations."

Tarmac's involvement in the iWagon trial and subsequent lease renewal of wagons featuring the technology aligns with its ambition to reduce transport-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions across its operations. By leveraging smart monitoring and maintenance technologies, Tarmac is paving the way for a greener, more efficient supply chain.

Rory Higgins, Rail Contracts Manager at Tarmac, said: "The successful trial of the iWagon on our flow was a significant achievement. Extending the deployment of this technology to our tank wagon fleet is an exciting step forward as we continue to explore innovative ways to improve rail freight operations."

This latest agreement reinforces the strong collaboration between VTG Rail UK and Tarmac while highlighting both companies' dedication to advancing innovation and sustainability within the rail freight industry.

# Shaping tomorrow's rail freight

Marc Hurn, Interim Managing Director of VTG Rail UK, explains more about the opportunities for rail freight and in bringing the iWagon to market in an interview which originally appeared in Rail Director Magazine.



"Rail freight is acutely placed to be front and centre of the transport policy. As an industry we need to back ourselves and constantly strive for continuous improvement, work closely with our customers and understand their challenges and needs in order to get more product moved by rail," said Marc Hurn, Interim Managing Director of VTG Rail UK.

As the UK's largest rail freight wagon hire company, VTG Rail UK has been at the forefront of driving the market and providing innovative technology, most notably in the last year with the launch of the VTG iWagon, which is transforming rail freight with its advanced safety features and operational efficiencies to significantly increase wagon availability and reliability.

"When people say 'no, it can't be done'

then to me, it's a challenge. I am a great fan of continuous improvement and thinking outside the box," said Marc. "It's fair to say that rail freight has sometimes been conservative in previous challenges; we

are now operating in a world of supply chain logistics with companies like Amazon who are embracing technology, and they don't stand still.

"Rail freight has a window of opportunity over the next five to 10 years to really grasp the nettle and encourage customers to take the transportation of products off the road and use rail instead. However, road freight is aggressive in its technical capabilities. Is rail freight developing as fast as road is, in terms of tech? Probably not, and so the rail freight industry needs to realise that we can and must keep up."

The journey in bringing the VTG iWagon to market began over a decade ago when Nigel Day, Business Improvement Director at VTG Rail UK, and Sanjay Albert, Director of Engineering and Innovation at Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems (UK), came together to realise how the two companies could collaborate by providing new and significant digital wagon technology, which would also create operational efficiencies and increase wagon availability.

Over the last one to two years, the teams of dedicated engineers and innovators from VTG and Knorr-Bremse worked together to create the iWagon, which integrates Wheel Flat Prevention (WFP),



L-R: Sanjay Albert (Director of Engineering & Innovation, Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems UK), Nigel Day (Business Improvement Director, VTG Rail UK) and Marc Hurn, discuss the merits of iWagon with former Rail Minister Huw Merriman last May.

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state-of-the-art sensors, data analytics, and automation to enhance the safety, performance and reliability of rail freight wagons.

Marc said: "Rail freight has, in some cases, been good in the past for theoretical developments but there are very few of these concepts that have made it off the drawing board. Why? Because it is difficult to achieve consensus and also realise a business case which, often involves multiple stakeholders.

"People like Nigel Day at VTG and Sanjay Albert at Knorr-Bremse have driven huge change through collaborating on technical innovations. Our two companies have put our money where our mouth is. We have invested, taken a big risk and brought game-changing technology to the market.

"Some may have been resistant because innovation is challenging which is always the case with ground-breaking technology because they change the status quo and that's exactly why the iWagon has hit the ground running. We have really listened to our customers, and we've brought to the market a product that both supports and benefits the industry as a whole. We also welcome further competition because this is one



VTG Rail UK secured a hat-trick of industry awards for their collaboration with Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems UK for iWagon in 2024, including the Innovation and Talent award at the RFG Awards.

"We must continue to bring new technologies to the market, it's not just about having a technology mindset, it's about challenging that mindset to ask what we can continually do to improve the customer journey."

of our driving factors."

The strategy has paid off. With customers realising the benefits the iWagon technology will bring to them and embracing it. In June 2024 Heidelberg Materials UK won the race to become the first company in the world to adopt iWagon, saying its decision to retrofit its entire wagon fleet with the technology was a "no-brainer".



Heidelberg Materials UK won the race to become the first company in the world to adopt iWagon technology following the decision to retrofit their entire wagon fleet. (Photo courtesy Heidelberg Materials UK):

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But it certainly doesn't stop there. New technology breeds new ideas and they are certainly coming thick and fast.

"We are currently working on a project called 'iMaintenance' which has been developed entirely because of iWagon," said Marc. "Once you take the first successful step there will always, naturally become further developments and innovations. The interest in iWagon is very buoyant and we have multiple customers on board, its out on the network and we are seeing its benefits. We are very ambitious and optimistic that our position in the market will grow and be reinforced as the market leader with all the innovations that we are working on at the moment."

With the Government target to grow rail freight by no less than 75 per cent by 2050 across Great Britain, how does Marc see the industry adapting to the changing markets and achieving such growth? "We must continue to bring new technologies to the market, it's not just about having a technology mindset, it's about challenging that mindset to ask what we can continually do to improve the customer journey," he said.

"For example, with the iWagon we are focusing on getting to really know our customers and stakeholders, really understanding the pain points, it's not just about providing them with the iWagon's capabilities, it's about ensuring that it delivers what our customers need

and what they want.

"For us, here at VTG Rail UK, to get rail freight to where it needs to go in the future, we have to equip the wagons with necessary and ground-breaking technologies, to keep innovating, and thinking outside the box, making everything easier for the customer."

Marc joined VTG Rail UK as Sales and Marketing Director in May 2023 and was promoted to the role of Interim Managing Director in September 2024, stepping in for Colin Denman who has been promoted to Interim Chief Customer Services Officer (CCSO) for VTG GmbH, based out of Hamburg in Germany. Marc has previously worked in roles for Invensys, Trelleborg Sealing Solutions, DWK Life Sciences and Conveyor Units Limited.

A keen rugby union fan and former player, Marc played blindside flank for Worcester Rugby Football Club and also played for US Canet Rugby Union Team which is based near Perpignan in the South of France. He uses the firm grounding and experiences gained through playing the sport in his business life.

He said: "I'm a firm believer in working as part of a team and as a team you are only ever as strong as your weakest link. Being part of a rugby team teaches strong life skills in how to behave not only on the pitch but off it too. Working with a team ethos is such an important part of



Wagons need to be equipped with the necessary and ground-breaking technologies to get rail freight where it needs to be in the future.

So what does Marc believe the future holds for VTG Rail UK and the rail freight industry as a whole?

"VTG Rail UK is very excited for what the future may bring, there are multiple tech innovations and wagon design developments that we are working on which will come to fruition in the next three to five years," he said.

"In the future, I think the industry may very well see more alliances and collaborations in rail freight, as we have done with Knorr-Bremse on the iWagon, which has brought huge benefits. Future successes for the rail freight industry won't be realised as quickly if there isn't collaboration."



An exciting future - VTG is working on multiple tech innovations and wagon design developments which will come to fruition in the next three to five years.



## People

# Richard Silva strengthens VTG Rail UK's Supply Chain team



Richard has previously worked in the aerospace industry for 18 years and is looking forward to bringing his experience gained there to the rail freight market.

He said: "I'm delighted to join VTG Rail UK in what is a very exciting time for the company. I've had a great welcome to the team and to the rail freight sector, and I am looking forward to a successful year for VTG."

Richard's expertise in streamlining complex supply chain operations and his focus on innovation will undoubtedly be an asset to VTG Rail UK as we continue to drive forward our digital transformation and sustainability goals. His vision for enhancing operational excellence aligns with our commitment to delivering the highest standards to our customers.

In his spare time, Richard is learning to speak and write in Japanese and is fascinated by the country, having visited it for his 30th birthday.

Due to the impending retirement of Mark Pumphrey at the end of March, we're pleased to announce that Richard Silva has joined VTG Rail UK as our Head of Supply Chain and Asset Management.

In his role, Richard will oversee our supply chain process, from procurement to distribution, and manage our assets to ensure efficiency and effectiveness across our operations.

# Meet Megan: Our new Quality and Compliance Coordinator



Welcome to Megan Campbell who has joined our team as Quality and Compliance Coordinator.

Megan graduated from the University of Nottingham with an upper second class honours degree in Psychology, in May last year, marking the end of an incredible three-year journey

Her main responsibility at VTG is the overseeing of the Integrated Management System which includes business processes, auditing of the supply chain, health and safety, and all environmental aspects.

Megan has grown up with a knowledge of the rail industry as her dad, Russ, is our Head of Engineering.

Megan said: "My dad has worked at VTG for over 20 years, so I know that it's a great company to work for and that everyone is treated like one big family. VTG is a well-established name in the rail industry and I'm excited and proud to be a part of it."

In her spare time Megan is a big football fan and a season ticket holder at Derby County.

## VTG Rail UK celebrates Christmas in style



The VTG Rail UK team kicked off the festive season in spectacular fashion for our annual Christmas night out. Dressed to impress in their finest attire, the group of thirty, including colleagues and their partners, gathered for the Grand Showman's Gala, held at the world-renowned International Convention Centre in Birmingham.

This lavish, themed extravaganza brought the magic of Christmas to life with a dazzling line-up of entertainment, including stilt walkers, fire eaters, dancers and singers. It was an unforgettable evening that truly embodied the holiday spirit. The incredible atmosphere and jaw-dropping performances provided the perfect backdrop for celebrating the achievements of the year.

# Breedon orders 54 new JPA powder tank wagons with VTG iWagon technology

Breedon Group, a leading vertically-integrated international construction materials group in Great Britain, Ireland and the United States, has placed a significant order for 54 new JPA powder tank wagons from VTG Rail UK.

The state-of-the-art wagons, equipped with VTG Rail UK's ground-breaking iWagon system, will be built by Feldbinder - specialists in the manufacture of high-quality tank wagons - and delivered in January 2026. This marks the largest order for new build wagons featuring VTG's iWagon technology to date, after it was introduced to the market in Spring 2024.

Marc Hurn, Interim Managing Director of VTG Rail UK, said: "We are excited to partner with Breedon to deliver these 54 JPA wagons, which are among the most advanced in the industry. The integration of iWagon technology represents a significant leap forward in rail freight.

"By delivering real-time data on wagon performance, we're enabling Breedon to optimise their logistics, reduce downtime, and minimise environmental impact. This investment underscores Breedon's commitment to future-proofing their operations with cutting-edge rail solutions."

The new wagons represent a major advancement in rail freight. The iWagon offers unprecedented data-driven insights into wagon safety and performance, operational efficiencies, and real-time tracking. These cutting-edge systems will enable Breedon to further streamline its logistics operations, improving safety, efficiency and sustainability across its supply chain.

"The adoption of iWagon is exactly the type of initiative we are keen to implement, in partnership with our suppliers, in order to improve the safety, reliability and drive efficiencies within our supply chain."

Dan Cheetham, Logistics Manager at Breedon.

Archie Lucas, Sales Manager at VTG Rail UK, said: "We are pleased to have worked with Breedon to meet their requirement for newly built JPA Powder Tank Wagons. The additional 54 wagons shall serve to update the Breedon fleet, ensuring the

reliability and efficiency of Breedon's supply chain remains resilient for many years to come."

The JPA powder tank wagons are designed specifically for the bulk transportation of powder cement. The addition of iWagon technology will provide real-time monitoring of wagon status, offering enhanced operational visibility by integrating state-of-the-art sensors, data analytics, and automation to elevate safety, performance, and reliability standards. These high-tech wagons will further bolster Breedon's ability to supply critical infrastructure projects across the UK.

Dan Cheetham, Logistics Manager at Breedon, said: "We are pleased to build on our existing relationship with VTG to increase our fleet of JPA wagons. The adoption of iWagon is exactly the type of initiative we are keen to implement, in partnership with our suppliers, in order to improve the safety, reliability and drive efficiencies within our supply chain".

The iWagon-equipped tank wagons will be rolled out across Breedon's core network routes in early 2026, ensuring that the company remains at the forefront of rail-based logistics solutions within the construction materials sector.



# VTG becomes a founding member of the Carbon Management Alliance



The liquified gas tank wagon from VTG is optimised for transporting LNG (Liquified natural gas).

The VTG Group is proud to be a founding member of the new cross-industry Carbon Management Alliance, an initiative focused on promoting multimodal transport supply chains to support the development of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU) markets in Germany.

Partnering with leading organisations, VTG is committed to supporting the German government in achieving ambitious carbon management and climate goals.

## Why this initiative matters

Decarbonising industrial applications and transport sectors with high CO<sub>2</sub> emissions presents a significant challenge. Innovative solutions like CCS and CCU are crucial for advancing climate protection. By capturing, storing, and reusing sustainable CO<sub>2</sub>, we can expand the range of available tools to address hard-to-abate emissions and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon future.

## VTG's role in Carbon Management

At VTG, we're already enabling the transport of CO<sub>2</sub> with our rail freight assets. As the CCUS market develops, pipelines will play an important role in carbon transport; however, rail and multimodal supply chains will remain essential for making CCUS a viable emission reduction solution. Without rail-based transport, CCUS cannot be effectively implemented before 2030, nor will it become a scalable option for most CO<sub>2</sub> emitters in the future.

By contributing our expertise in rail freight transport, VTG aims to drive meaningful progress in carbon management while supporting climate targets at both national and EU levels. We look forward to collaborating with our alliance partners to deliver sustainable, multimodal solutions that enable a greener future.

Through the Carbon Management Alliance, VTG is actively advocating for:

- A level playing field for all transport modes and CO<sub>2</sub> emitters across Germany and Europe.
- Investment in new rail corridors, transshipment hubs, and storage infrastructure.
- Long-term planning security to ensure successful implementation of CCUS initiatives.

## Carbon Management Alliance and the role of rail freight

The Carbon Management Alliance represents a vital step forward in tackling hard-to-abate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in industrial and transport sectors.

By bringing together a range of industry leaders, the alliance aims to create efficient, multimodal transport supply chains to support the development of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU) markets.

These technologies are key to reducing emissions and advancing climate protection goals, with the alliance playing a pivotal role in helping Germany achieve their ambitious carbon management and climate targets.

Rail freight, in particular, will serve as a cornerstone of these efforts. As a reliable, sustainable, and scalable mode of transport, rail is uniquely positioned to bridge the gap between carbon emitters and storage facilities or utilisation hubs. While CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines are expected to play an important role in the future, rail offers the flexibility and multimodal connectivity needed to enable CCS and CCU solutions today.

By investing in new rail corridors, transshipment points, and storage capacities, the Carbon Management Alliance ensures that rail freight will continue to be a vital component of the supply chain, making a tangible impact on emission reductions while driving innovation in sustainable transport solutions.

## VTG Rail UK supports successful trials of O8e locomotive at Whatley Quarry

VTG Rail UK was delighted to see our wagons play a key role in the successful trials of the battery powered Class O8e locomotive at Heidelberg Materials' Whatley Quarry in Somerset, one of the UK's most demanding environments for internal rail movements.

During the two-week trial in October 2024, Positive Traction provided comprehensive familiarisation training for drivers and shunters, ensuring smooth operations across all shifts. The trials involved rigorous testing of the O8e's capabilities, including hauling and propelling trains weighing over 1,000-

tonnes through challenging reverse curves, crossovers, steep gradients, and quarry sidings to the stone loading area.

The data collected from these trials was highly encouraging, showcasing the locomotive's impressive battery life, enhanced tractive effort, hill start performance, and regenerative braking for fast charging. These results underline the O8e's suitability for demanding industrial operations.

This milestone highlights VTG Rail UK's ongoing commitment to supporting innovative and sustainable rail solutions.

## VTG Rail UK explores team dynamics with DISC assessments



VTG Rail UK hosted an engaging and insightful day of DISC assessments in November, facilitated by Karl Morris, Business and Executive Coach (pictured above). The event, organised by Marc Hurn and Debbie Field, aimed to enhance team performance, communication, and overall interaction.

DISC assessments are a powerful tool used to analyse individual and team behaviour. By categorising behavioural styles into four main profiles - Dominance, Influence, Steadiness, and Conscientiousness - the assessment provides valuable insights into how people communicate, respond to challenges, and collaborate within a team. This understanding can drive improved interaction and productivity across the organisation.

The session was packed with interaction, participation, and, most importantly, fun. Karl shared his expertise, guiding the VTG Rail UK team through exercises and discussions that sparked meaningful conversations and actionable takeaways.

This event underscores VTG Rail UK's commitment to investing in its people and fostering a collaborative and high-performing workplace culture.



VTG Rail UK wagons played a key role in the successful trials of the battery powered Class O8e locomotive at Heidelberg Materials' Whatley Quarry in Somerset in October.



### 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](mailto:debbie.field@vtg.com)

# Ten year lease agreement with Alvanche heralds new customer to VTG portfolio



VTG Rail UK has announced a new ten-year wagon leasing agreement with Alvanche British Aluminium, a leading name in the aluminium manufacturing sector. Under the agreement, which began in January 2025, VTG will lease 20 JPA powder tank wagons to the company, marking Alvanche as a new customer in VTG's expanding client portfolio.

The JPA wagons will be upgraded with VTG's innovative iWagon technology, a cutting-edge solution that is transforming the rail freight industry by enhancing tracking and operational efficiency, providing Alvanche with the advanced capabilities needed to meet the demands of its operations.

Archie Lucas, Sales Manager at VTG Rail UK, said: "We are proud to welcome Alvanche British Aluminium as our newest customer. This partnership exemplifies our commitment to providing innovative solutions that meet the evolving needs of the industry. The retrofitting of these JPA

wagons with iWagon technology is a testament to our dedication to enhancing efficiency and service delivery in rail transport for the benefit of our customers."

**"Partnering with VTG Rail UK for our logistics needs is a strategic move that will significantly enhance our operations."**

Tom Uppington, Managing Director of Alvanche British Aluminium.

The leased wagons are expected to enter service with Alvanche in June 2025 and will play a pivotal role in transporting alumina powder from the Port of Blyth, Northumberland, to Fort William in the Scottish Highlands. This journey is integral to Alvanche's process of producing aluminium at one of the

world's most environmentally friendly metal production facilities.

The ten-year lease agreement includes a comprehensive maintenance contract provided by VTG. This ensures that the wagons are maintained to the highest standards, providing reliability and peace of mind for Alvanche as they integrate the new assets into their operations.

Tom Uppington, Managing Director of Alvanche British Aluminium, said: "Partnering with VTG Rail UK for our logistics needs is a strategic move that will significantly enhance our operations. The integration of iWagon technology will not only improve our efficiency but also align with our goals for innovation in our supply chain."

The collaboration underscores both companies' dedication to innovation and sustainable transport solutions in the industry, paving the way for a more efficient, eco-friendly future in rail freight.

# Online wagon catalogue available for customers

Our online catalogue showcasing all available wagons from VTG Rail UK is available to download.

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

 <p><b>Hopper Wagon: HHA-E</b></p> <p>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.</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Gross Laden Weight (t):</td><td>101.6</td></tr> <tr><td>Tare Weight (t):</td><td>24.5</td></tr> <tr><td>Payload (t):</td><td>77.1</td></tr> <tr><td>Length (mm):</td><td>15,200</td></tr> <tr><td>Bogie Type:</td><td>TF25</td></tr> <tr><td>Qty Available:</td><td>22</td></tr> </table>	Gross Laden Weight (t):	101.6	Tare Weight (t):	24.5	Payload (t):	77.1	Length (mm):	15,200	Bogie Type:	TF25	Qty Available:	22	 <p><b>Hopper Wagon: IIA-C</b></p> <p>Covered high volume wagon with automatic top door operation triggered by magnetic door control sensors. Suitable for biomass, wood chippings and other similar commodities.</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Gross Laden Weight (t):</td><td>101.6</td></tr> <tr><td>Tare Weight (t):</td><td>27.7</td></tr> <tr><td>Payload (t):</td><td>73.9</td></tr> <tr><td>Length (mm):</td><td>18,339</td></tr> <tr><td>Bogie Type:</td><td>TF25</td></tr> <tr><td>Qty Available:</td><td>26</td></tr> </table>	Gross Laden Weight (t):	101.6	Tare Weight (t):	27.7	Payload (t):	73.9	Length (mm):	18,339	Bogie Type:	TF25	Qty Available:	26	 <p><b>Hopper Wagon: HYA-B</b></p> <p>Open hopper wagon operating a specialised unloading system. Suitable for small aggregates, sand and other similar commodities.</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Gross Laden Weight (t):</td><td>101.6</td></tr> <tr><td>Tare Weight (t):</td><td>25.4</td></tr> <tr><td>Payload (t):</td><td>76.2</td></tr> <tr><td>Length (mm):</td><td>14,900</td></tr> <tr><td>Bogie Type:</td><td>TF25A</td></tr> <tr><td>Qty Available:</td><td>24</td></tr> </table>	Gross Laden Weight (t):	101.6	Tare Weight (t):	25.4	Payload (t):	76.2	Length (mm):	14,900	Bogie Type:	TF25A	Qty Available:	24	 <p><b>Hopper Wagon: IIA-B</b></p> <p>Covered high-volume hopper wagon suitable for low density commodities.</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Gross Laden Weight (t):</td><td>101.6</td></tr> <tr><td>Tare Weight (t):</td><td>23.6</td></tr> <tr><td>Payload (t):</td><td>78</td></tr> <tr><td>Length (mm):</td><td>15,193</td></tr> <tr><td>Bogie Type:</td><td>TF25</td></tr> <tr><td>Qty Available:</td><td>24</td></tr> </table>	Gross Laden Weight (t):	101.6	Tare Weight (t):	23.6	Payload (t):	78	Length (mm):	15,193	Bogie Type:	TF25	Qty Available:	24
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 <p><b>Special Wagon: KWA</b></p> <p>Well wagon suitable for carrying plant machinery such as diggers etc. Optional self-loading ramp and platform. Suitable for excavators and plant machinery.</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Gross Laden Weight (t):</td><td>57</td></tr> <tr><td>Tare Weight (t):</td><td>25.2</td></tr> <tr><td>Payload (t):</td><td>31.8</td></tr> <tr><td>Length (mm):</td><td>17,060</td></tr> <tr><td>Bogie Type:</td><td>VNH1</td></tr> <tr><td>Qty Available:</td><td>30</td></tr> </table>	Gross Laden Weight (t):	57	Tare Weight (t):	25.2	Payload (t):	31.8	Length (mm):	17,060	Bogie Type:	VNH1	Qty Available:	30	 <p><b>Hopper Wagon: HQA</b></p> <p>Open hopper wagon for the transport and application of railway ballast. Suitable for small aggregates, sand and other similar commodities.</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Gross Laden Weight (t):</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>Tare Weight (t):</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>Payload (t):</td><td>65</td></tr> <tr><td>Length (mm):</td><td>17,200</td></tr> <tr><td>Bogie Type:</td><td>AM1</td></tr> <tr><td>Qty Available:</td><td>10 (2 x 5)</td></tr> </table>	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)	 <p><b>Box Wagon: JNA-A</b></p> <p>Open top box wagon with an internal capacity of approx 57 cubic metres. Suitable for aggregates, scrap metal, spoil and other similar commodities.</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Gross Laden Weight (t):</td><td>101.6</td></tr> <tr><td>Tare Weight (t):</td><td>23.15</td></tr> <tr><td>Payload (t):</td><td>78.45</td></tr> <tr><td>Length (mm):</td><td>13,970</td></tr> <tr><td>Bogie Type:</td><td>3-Piece</td></tr> <tr><td>Qty Available:</td><td>60</td></tr> </table>	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:	60	 <p><b>Box Wagon: JNA-T</b></p> <p>Open top box wagon with an internal capacity of approx 60 cubic metres. Suitable for aggregates, scrap metal, spoil and other similar commodities.</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Gross Laden Weight (t):</td><td>101.6</td></tr> <tr><td>Tare Weight (t):</td><td>24.2</td></tr> <tr><td>Payload (t):</td><td>77.4</td></tr> <tr><td>Length (mm):</td><td>13,970</td></tr> <tr><td>Bogie Type:</td><td>TF25A</td></tr> <tr><td>Qty Available:</td><td>66</td></tr> </table>	Gross Laden Weight (t):	101.6	Tare Weight (t):	24.2	Payload (t):	77.4	Length (mm):	13,970	Bogie Type:	TF25A	Qty Available:	66
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To enquire, please contact:



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

## 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.



## VTG Rail UK achieves sustainability milestone with wagon recycling project

At VTG Rail UK, we're always exploring new and innovative ways to manage end-of-life assets. In partnership with specialist demolition contractors, Thompsons of Prudhoe and wagon repair and maintenance specialist, Mandy Rail, we completed a remarkable wagon recycling project in 2024.

In this project, Mandy Rail's skilled team expertly removed air brake equipment and other components from 17 of our end-of-life wagons. These wagons were then carefully lifted from their sidings and into Thompson's Decom facility at the Port of Blyth, where their team processed and recycled an impressive 300 tonnes of steel, ensuring minimal environmental impact.

Mark Pumphrey, Asset Manager at VTG Rail UK, remarked, "This is the first wagon

recycling project we've undertaken with Thompsons and Mandy Rail, and it was a tremendous success. The fact that 99% of the wagons were recycled demonstrates a significant commitment to sustainability. This achievement represents a critical step towards minimising VTG Rail UK's carbon footprint and reinforces our dedication to achieving our sustainability goals."

This milestone reflects VTG's ongoing commitment to innovation and environmental responsibility, and we're excited about the positive impact this project will have on our future wagon recycling projects.

### Watch the video

**CLICK HERE** to view footage of the wagon recycling project (courtesy of Thompsons of Prudhoe).

## VTG Rail UK connects with industry leaders at InnoTrans 2024



VTG was delighted to premiere at InnoTrans 2024 last September.

The event, held in Berlin over 4 days, is renowned as the world's leading trade fair for transport technology and provided an excellent platform to showcase the group's sustainable transport solutions, products and innovations to visitors for the very first time.

Marc Hurn was amongst the representatives from VTG Rail UK on the specially commissioned 60m<sup>2</sup> exhibition stand, taking the opportunity to meet with customers and suppliers.

Marc said: "InnoTrans provides a fantastic opportunity to connect with industry peers and discuss how we can continue to drive progress together. It was great to meet so many customers and suppliers during the event."



The decommissioned wagons are carefully lifted from their sidings and into Thompson's Decom facility at the Port of Blyth.



The team processed and recycled an impressive 300 tonnes of steel, demonstrating VTG Rail UK's significant commitment to sustainability.

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