

TSSA pay offer

The TSSA union has accepted an above-inflation pay deal with London Underground, after talks at conciliation service ACAS. LU has offered to match the Retail Prices Index inflation measure plus 0.2% for four years from April 2019, with pay backdated.

Network Rail gears up for East Lancs bridge works

Network Rail is preparing for a nine-day closure in East Lancashire, to replace one bridge and strengthen another in a £3.95 million project.

A bridge near Accrington is to be replaced and another at Rose Grove (Burnley) is to be strengthened, necessitating closure

of the railway between Colne and Blackburn from February 15-23. Both bridges cross the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.

In addition to the bridge works, new drainage will be laid at Rose Grove and track upgraded at Townley Tunnel and Gannow Junction. The platform canopy at

Nelson station will also be reglazed.

As well as the Blackburn-Colne closure, on February 15-16 and February 22-23 no trains will run between Blackburn, Accrington, Burnley Manchester Road and Hebden Bridge, and on February 17-21 between Blackburn and Accrington.

Regulator opens signalling market study ahead of digital rollout

The Office of Rail and Road launched a market study into the railway signalling market on January 27.

The regulator says it wants to focus on the level of competition for the delivery of significant signalling projects, examine the strength of competition for tenders,

and assess whether there are any barriers to innovation or to new entrants with new technology.

It will also examine whether there is fair and commercially reasonable access to interlocking technology and to other infrastructure elements needed to deliver complex signalling projects.

The ORR says it wants to look at the market now to ensure that any competition issues in the supply chain do not slow down or drive up the cost of the rollout of the digital railway. More than £4 billion was spent by Network Rail on signalling projects between 2014 and 2019.

ORR Head of Competition Tom

Cole said: "The ability for Network Rail to drive value for money when buying high-quality signalling systems is vital to its delivery of a reliable and efficient railway."

"We want to ensure the signalling supply chain is fair and competitive, and delivering good outcomes."

Register now for your place at Rail Live 2020!



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REGISTRATION is now open for Britain's only event that brings the entire rail industry together in a real railway environment.

Rail Live will take place this year on June 17-18 at Quinton Rail Technology Centre (QRTC), Long Marston, Warwickshire. And new for 2020 is the InnoTech Pavilion, a dedicated exhibition hall of more than 2,200m² featuring a diverse

range of the latest innovations and technology from across the industry.

Giving visitors the opportunity to explore how the latest innovations, products, suppliers and technology could transform their businesses, the pavilion will feature:

- Technology providers.
- The Rail Alliance Village.
- Networking cafe.
- Innovation and Technology seminar theatre.

Also confirmed for attendance at this year's event is Network Rail's 'Flying Banana' New Measurement Train (NMT). The converted HST

set monitors and records track condition information, using the latest technology to find faults before they affect performance or become a safety risk.

The NMT covers a staggering 115,000 miles a year and captures 10TB of image data every 440 miles. Visitors to the show will be able to find out more about the vital role that this unique train plays on the network and ask questions about its capabilities.

Rail Live was relaunched in 2018 by RAIL's publisher Bauer Media. It is expected that the 2020 event will

More than 5,000 visitors attended Rail Live 2019 in June last year. Registration is now open for this year's event, which is expected to be even bigger. RAIL LIVE.



Porterbrook signs 15-year lease at Long Marston

Rolling stock asset management company Porterbrook has signed a 15-year lease to take over the future direction and development of Quinton Rail Technology Centre at Long Marston (Warwickshire).

The site, which is connected to the national network, covers 135 acres with 12 miles of storage sidings, a two-mile test track loop, a short length of electrified line, and a number of rail-served light maintenance structures.

The deal with site owner St Modwen is intended to secure the long-term future of the location as a railway centre and to put Warwickshire on the global map for rail innovation and expertise.

Management of the site will transfer to Porterbrook by the end of Q2 2021. The company says that it plans to create partnerships with technology leaders in other sectors and with the rail supply chain and academic bodies, to enable Long Marston to play a role in improving the railway for its customers.

Porterbrook has also confirmed that the site will continue to host Rail Live and to share's RAIL's ambitions for the event becoming a global showcase for the best Britain's railway has to offer. "The future of Britain's railway rests on our ability to work collaboratively as an industry," said Porterbrook CEO Mary Grant.

"Together we can develop the products and technologies needed



During Rail Live in June 2018, a view of the QRTC site at Long Marston from Network Rail's helicopter, which was an exhibit at the event. RAIL LIVE.

to deliver a sustainable railway that benefits all users. Our first step on this journey is securing a significant national asset for the future.

"We already have first-hand experience of using Long Marston to develop and test new products, including HydroFLEX, the UK's first hydrogen-powered train, as well as our Innovation Hub - a static train testbed based at the site for use by SMEs in the supply chain. We are confident that with the right strategic direction Long Marston has huge potential to accelerate railway developments across the board."

What they say about Rail Live

"Rail Live is the premier hands-on rail event of the year - rolling stock, plant, people, techniques. Unmissable. Be there!"
Sir Peter Henty CBE, Chairman, Network Rail

"It's great to see Rail Live clearly going from strength to strength and it's already obvious to me that it's taken a step forward in the last year."
Chris Grayling, Former Secretary of State for Transport speaking at last year's event

"Rail Live is a truly notable event for all people with a professional rail interest. Having RAIL take over the organisation and promotion of the show has made it possible for Rail Live to become a

"Farnborough for the Railway", an event that is well and truly in the international rail calendar."
Mike Noakes, Head of Rail, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

"This event offers something different. It gives us the opportunity to be in a railway environment with real plant and real organisations."
Pino De Rosa, Managing Director, Bridgeway Consulting

"Rail Live is a fantastic forum for us, with a huge number of exciting opportunities!"
Alex Burrows, Managing Director, Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education

attract around 250 exhibitors and more than 5,000 visitors across the two days.

Over the past two years, exhibits at the event have included more than £0.5 billion worth of rail plant equipment each year and more than £20 million worth of locomotives and rolling stock. Last year, the UK's first full-sized hydrogen train HydroFLEX was demonstrated at the show.

Live demonstrations by the British Transport Police have been a popular fixture of the event for the past two years, and it is expected that similar displays will take place in 2020.

More features for this year's event will be announced on www.raillive.org.uk and in RAIL as soon as they are confirmed. [@stefatrail](https://twitter.com/stefatrail)
■ Rail Live is a trade show for individuals working in or with the rail industry. To register for this year's event, visit www.raillive.org.uk.

For more information...

Regular updates and more information on attending Rail Live is available at www.raillive.org.uk

■ For more information on visiting the show, contact Katie Gordon-Hill at raillive@bauermedia.co.uk

■ To enquire about exhibiting or for information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Julie Howard (julie.howard@bauermedia.co.uk)

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