

See 'Innovation Hub' supply chain tr

VISITORS to Rail Live 2019 will be able to witness the official launch of Porterbrook's 'Innovation Hub' train.

A converted Class 319, the 'Innovation Hub' has been described as effectively the missing link in the supply chain, by allowing products to be 'fast-tracked' into a rail setting.

The concept has been developed

'Yellow plant' at Rail Live 2018. JACKBOSKETT/RAIL



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since Porterbrook's first ever supplier conference last year, at which attendees identified an inability to showcase products on a real train as a key obstacle to

successful innovation.

Porterbrook Head of Innovation and Technical Services Chandra Morbey said of the 'Innovation Hub': "We were keen to make the whole process as simple and easy for suppliers as possible, so that we - and they - could focus on their ideas and innovation. Drawing on Porterbrook's expert team of engineers, innovations were reviewed and more than 30 different innovation ideas were selected to showcase."

Suppliers include 3M, 42 Technology, Altro, Aqueios Guard, Aura Graphics, Axminster Carpets, Birley Manufacturing, BlockDox, Blocksil, Camira Fabrics, Chrysalis, Digital Railway Ltd, ELeather, EAO, ESG Rail, Flitetrak, I M Kelly R & A Ltd, Infodev EDI, Inspiring Solutions Group, KeTech Systems, Milwaukee Composites Incorporated, Motorail, On Train, Powelexics, Revitaglaze, Stewart Signs, Train FX, Transcal Engineering, TRB Lightweight



Work under way on Glasgow Queen Street platform extensions

Work to extend platforms at Glasgow Queen Street began on April 15.

Platforms 2-5 are being extended to enable eight-car electric multiple units to serve the station, as well as five-coach InterCity High Speed Trains.

The existing hoardings are being moved a further five metres into the station, as part of the £120 million project to redevelop Queen Street. Initially, work behind the hoardings involves the construction of buffer stops for the extended platforms.

During the second half of June, engineers will work in front of Platforms 2 and 3 to uncover a space beneath the concourse that was originally excavated in 2016, when the station was closed. This was re-covered with a temporary concourse while other parts of the station were redeveloped.

These platforms will be out of use

throughout July, while engineers complete the platform extensions and extend the overhead wires. Coping stones will be installed, and sections of the station rebuilt.

Kevin McClelland, Network Rail route delivery director for Infrastructure Projects, said: "The new-look station is beginning to take shape, with the steel frame of the extended station building now in position and work under way to create the new concourse."

Transport Scotland's Director of Rail Bill Reeve said: "These forthcoming works mark another significant milestone in the delivery of this iconic station development."

NR said Platforms 4 and 5 will be extended between mid-September and mid-October, meaning that these will be closed during that period. The entire project is due to be complete next year.

GBRf extends British Gypsum contract

GB Railfreight and British Gypsum have extended their haulage contract to December 2021.

In addition to continuing the existing Southampton-Robertsbridge service, further terminal services at Robertsbridge will be provided, as well as an additional flow from AV Dawson in Teesside to British Gypsum's plant in East Leake, near Loughborough. An average of ten trains per week will run.

"The continuation of this contract with British Gypsum marks GB Railfreight's continued commitment to the UK building sector, to which gypsum is an unsung hero," said GBRf Managing Director John Smith.

"It also underlines the important role that rail

freight plays in helping the construction sector increase its sustainability. Each trainload can take up to 70 lorries off the road, therefore significantly reducing emissions."

British Gypsum Senior Procurement Manager Kevin Flinton added: "GBRf's rail freight services play an important role in the success of our business, enabling the reliable flow of raw materials to our manufacturing plants and ensuring the supply of our products to the UK construction sector."

"Our use of rail freight underlines our commitment to increasing the sustainability of operations in the UK, and the addition of extra services highlights the health of our business and the strength of our partnership with the GBRf."

Train at Rail Live



Structures, Unipart Rail and URGroup.

Network Rail, which is already bringing its survey helicopter to the June 19-20 event (RAIL 876), is now also to showcase another key part of its maintenance fleet.

The unique Class 950 Track Recording Unit is based on a Class 150 Sprinter, but was specially built to a modified design for its dedicated role. Fitted with specialist laser and video recording equipment, it can run on lines

barred to the larger HST-based New Measurement Train.

Other rolling stock attending the show includes Vivarail's battery Class 230 and Britain's first full-sized hydrogen-powered train, Porterbrook's HydroFLEX (RAIL 875).

The British Transport Police, Rail Accident Investigation Branch and a variety of 'yellow plant' are also to attend Rail Live, which takes place at the Quinton Rail Technology Centre at Long Marston. More than 6,000 people



An artist's impression of Porterbrook's Innovation Hub train. PORTERBROOK.



Network Rail's Class 950 is a dedicated track recording train - and is coming to Rail Live. The 'go anywhere' unit, here seen at Kingussie in the Highlands in 2010, covers lines barred to NR's New Measurement Train. ALAMY.

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)

and 250-plus exhibitors are expected to attend the event, and Great Western Railway is planning on bringing a dedicated charter train from London direct to the site (RAIL 876).

Rail Live's exclusive seminars continue to be developed, with more participants announced to join keynote speakers Secretary of State for Transport Chris Grayling

and Network Rail Chief Executive Andrew Haines (RAIL 876). The agenda can be downloaded from www.raillive.org.uk

■ Rail Live is a trade show for individuals working in the rail industry. You will need to register with a verified industry email address to attend. The event, at the QRTC in Long Marston, is on June 19/20. See www.raillive.org.uk.

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DfT confirms £300 million accessibility funding

Stations across Britain will benefit from Access for All funding totalling £300 million.

The Department for Transport has announced that work at 73 stations will include upgrades to lifts and footbridges, as well as smaller-scale improvements such as tactile paving on platform edges or adjustable ticket counters.

The investments will take place over five years and were selected following nominations from the rail industry, based on criteria such as footfall weighted by disability in the area, value for money, and local factors.

"Transport is vital for connecting people with work, friends and family, but also to enable them to enjoy visiting some of the wonderful cultural, historical and natural sites across the UK," said Transport Accessibility Minister Nusrat Ghani.

"We want the 13.9 million

disabled people in Britain to be empowered to travel independently, which is why I am delighted to announce this rollout of upgrades across the rail network.

"Over the next five years these newly accessible stations will open up routes across the country, helping us move closer to a transport sector that is truly accessible."

Transport Focus Chief Executive Anthony Smith said: "This latest funding is another big step in the right direction, and passengers can welcome the news that more of the rail network will be open to them.

"While many disabled travellers report receiving a good service, there is still a long way to go until people with disabilities have full access to the rail network.

"The rail industry and their staff must now get behind all

the changes required to deliver the more accessible network of stations promised. Passengers with disabilities must not continue to experience a mixed response to their requests for help. Operators must ensure that all booked help arrives, and that the correct help is provided."

Rail Delivery Group Regional Director Robert Nisbet said the railway wants more passengers to be able to access trains.

"The rail industry has delivered over £500m of targeted improvements since 2006, with 75% of journeys now made through step-free stations," he said.

Nisbet acknowledged further work is needed, but added: "We are also investing billions of pounds in more accessible carriages, better technology and station upgrades to make the railway even more accessible."

Buildings cleared for Euston HS2

Two major demolition projects at London Euston have revealed the extent of the new HS2 platforms and concourse to be built at the terminus.

The six-month demolition of the former Ibis Hotel on Cardington Street was completed in the first two weeks of April, while the second half of the disused National Temperance Hospital was also demolished in that timeframe.

Two time capsules were discovered during the work, and will be conserved for future study and display in the community.

The demolitions were carried out by enabling works contractor Costain Skanska Joint Venture, with sub-contractor Keltbray.