

## Contacts:

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Manufacturing – not just a man’s world**

Hitachi Rail Europe (HRE) celebrated International Women’s Day by holding a ‘Ladies Day’ recruitment event at their rail vehicle manufacturing facility in Newton Aycliffe on Tuesday, 8th March. The facility was opened by the Prime Minister in September last year.

As part of International Women’s Day, HRE has been encouraging more females to join its manufacturing and engineering teams.

Ninety women registered to attend the event. There were three sessions of 30 attendees, which included networking with the Hitachi Rail team and a visit to the production area to see the type of skills required in manufacturing trains.

HR Manager Julia Potts said;

“Although we have a large number of women working in Hitachi Rail in general, our manufacturing and engineering teams are not so equally represented. We thought it was time to try and improve the gender balance and dispel the myth that manufacturing is a man’s world.

“As we continue to grow our business there are many exciting career opportunities available. Many women may believe they don’t have the right skills needed to work in the rail industry but all of our jobs can be done by men or women.

“In the rail sector we look for people with skills such as problem solving, manual dexterity and precision – as far as I know these qualities are shared by men and women.”

Stacey Ord, one of the attendees at the event said;

“It was an excellent opportunity to look around the new facility, see the sorts of tasks involved and be able to ask questions to the team. To be part of Hitachi Rail is an opportunity not to be missed.”

Karen Boswell, Managing Director of Hitachi Rail Europe said;

“It’s fantastic that more and more women are considering engineering and manufacturing as a career option. The rail industry has one of the highest rates of growth of any sector in the UK today and Hitachi is committed to encouraging more women to pursue a career in this dynamic and rewarding industry.

“Hitachi is manufacturing the new InterCity Express Programme (IEP) trains for the East Coast Main Line and Great Western Main Line, as well as AT200 commuter trains for Scotland out of our new facility in the North East. We need a diverse workforce to reflect society as a whole. These new Hitachi trains will transform travel along the lines they serve for many thousands of fare paying customers, a high proportion of which will be female.”

**End**

**Note to Editor**

* 730 jobs have been created at the brand new state-of-the-art Hitachi rail manufacturing facility including apprenticeships.

Photo of attendees can be uploaded here:

<http://www.mynewsdesk.com/uk/hitachirail-eu/images/international-women-s-day-manufacturing-not-just-a-man-s-world-536696>

<http://www.mynewsdesk.com/uk/hitachirail-eu/images/international-women-s-day-manufacturing-not-just-a-man-s-world-536697>

**About Hitachi, Ltd.**

Hitachi, Ltd. (TSE: 6501), headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, delivers innovations that answer society’s challenges with our talented team and proven experience in global markets. The company’s consolidated revenues for fiscal 2014 (ended March 31, 2015) totaled 9,761 billion yen ($81.3 billion). Hitachi is focusing more than ever on the Social Innovation Business, which includes power & infrastructure systems, information & telecommunication systems, construction machinery, high functional materials & components, automotive systems, healthcare and others. For more information on Hitachi, please visit the company's website at [http://www.hitachi.com](http://www.hitachi.com/).

**About Hitachi Rail Europe Ltd.**

Hitachi Rail Europe Ltd. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Hitachi Europe, Ltd. and is headquartered in London, UK.

Hitachi Rail Europe is a total railway system supplier offering rolling stock, traction equipment, signalling, traffic management systems and maintenance depots.

Hitachi draws on many years of experience as a leading supplier of high-speed trains such as the Shinkansen (bullet train) for the Japanese and international markets. In Europe, Hitachi Rail Europe’s first rolling stock contract was to deliver a fleet of 29 Class 395 trains, the first domestic high-speed train in the UK, which are maintained at Hitachi’s state-of-the-art depot in Ashford, Kent. As part of the British Department for Transport’s Intercity Express Programme, Hitachi Rail Europe will replace the UK’s fleet of intercity trains, and will establish a new rolling stock manufacturing facility in Newton Aycliffe, UK for this purpose. The trains will be maintained and serviced in a number of new maintenance depots along the Great Western Main Line and the East Coast Main Line.

For more information about the company, please visit: [www.Hitachirail-eu.com](http://www.hitachirail-eu.com/) .