

Building Britain's bullet trains – Bombardier Transportation and Hitachi Rail confirm joint venture for HS2 bid

In a landmark day for the UK rail sector two international giants - that employ over 5,000 people in Britain - have confirmed they intend to submit a joint bid to design, build, deliver a fleet of bespoke state-of-the-art high speed trains for HS2.

The proposed partnership, building upon recent high speed success in Italy, offers HS2 a world class team that has established manufacturing and servicing centres in Britain. The collaboration brings together a deep understanding of very high speed rail with a strong reputation for building and maintaining highly reliable, cutting-edge and iconic trains.

This world class team can deliver the most efficient and advanced rolling stock for Europe's most demanding and exciting transport project. The trains will run on a new high speed network and connect 8 out of 10 of Britain's largest cities, increasing capacity, delivering greater comfort, faster journeys, while contributing to prosperity and growth.

The joint bid would support the UK Government's aims of boosting UK jobs, skills and British supply chain. Bombardier and Hitachi's combined UK operations include train factories in Derby and Newton Aycliffe, extensive UK supply chains, together with a network of maintenance facilities across England, Scotland and Wales. The companies are already developing a new generation of engineers and mechanical skills, with a focus on diversity and inclusion to attract new talent into the rail industry. The joint HS2 project would provide a launch pad for new investment in education and learning, adding to their existing partnerships with local schools and the 200 apprentices and graduates who are already employed.

Hitachi and Bombardier are a tried and tested high speed team, having already successfully delivered one of Europe's fastest trains in Italy. With a top speed of 398km/h, the ETR 1000 for Trenitalia – also known as the 'Red Arrow' (Frecciarossa) – not only whisks passengers to their destination very quickly, but also offers them great comfort and style; with interiors designed by Bertone, who have worked on classic super-cars, including Lamborghini and Aston Martin.

The partnership between the two UK-based firms is built on an impressive depth of experience delivering high speed internationally. Hitachi built the original Shinkansen bullet train in Japan in 1964, and, boasting an impeccable safety and reliability record, continues to pioneer the most recent incarnations of the iconic trains. Bombardier offers a depth of experience having built over 3,000 high speed train carriages for China, including the most recent Zefiro 380.

In the UK, Hitachi maintains the country's only domestic high speed fleet, the Class 395 Javelins, which it built and introduced ahead of the London 2012 Games. The trains, which have run from Ashford to London St Pancras at a top speed of 140mph for almost a decade, are one of the most reliable and popular services in the country. While in Europe, Bombardier has enabled some of the most prestigious very high speed developments across the continent, including four TGV series in France, the AVE S-102 and AVE S-130 in Spain, the ICE family in Germany and the ETR 500 in Italy.

The two companies are also making responsible procurement a cornerstone of their approach, in terms of long-term employment and reducing environmental impact. The ETR 1000 train used 85% recycled materials and the joint bid for HS2 would deploy the latest noise reduction technology.

The £2.75bn contract on offer is for a minimum fleet of 54 units that will run on Phase 1 of HS2 between London and the West Midlands. The newly designed rolling stock will also be uniquely 'classic compatible' so that they can travel on the current network to cities such as York, Newcastle, Liverpool, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

The formal tendering process is due to start later this year, with contract award in late 2019.

Karen Boswell, Managing Director at Hitachi Rail, said:

"HS2 will form the backbone of Britain's future rail network and is a major investment in our future prosperity. By joining together in partnership with Bombardier, we will draw on a huge wealth of UK experience and the best in modern technology – including our pioneering 'bullet train' experience. Our aim is to deliver a new British icon that will be recognised around the world – a Spitfire for the British railway."

Richard Hunter, Managing Director UK, Bombardier Transportation, said

"HS2 is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform the nation's transport network and we are very excited by the chance to play a key part in delivering it. By joining together in partnership with Hitachi we will combine both companies global high speed expertise with unrivalled British experience, and help generate skills and prosperity across a number of UK regions."

About Hitachi Rail Europe

Hitachi Rail Europe is a global transport specialist with over 100 years of experience building pioneering trains, offering quality maintenance and developing innovative new technology. As a leader in rail we're improving transport for passengers, connecting communities and helping to boost the UK's economy.

Having delivered the hugely popular Javelin HS1 fleet in advance of the 2012 London Games, Hitachi is delivering major orders for new trains, with 281 due to be in service by 2021. The first wave of new trains is being made at our purpose-built factory in County Durham and entered passenger service in 2017 as part of the UK Government's £5.7bn Intercity Express Programme. With a proud reputation for innovation, Hitachi is at the forefront of using new digital technology to enhance passenger experience and enrich Britain's railway's heritage. Hitachi rail is growing rapidly, employing over 2,000 people and soon to be operational at 15 locations across the UK.

For more information about the company, please visit: www.Hitachirail-eu.com or follow us on Twitter [@HitachiRailEU](https://twitter.com/HitachiRailEU)

About Bombardier Transportation

Bombardier Transportation is a global leader in rail technology and offers the broadest portfolio in the industry. It covers the full spectrum of rail solutions, ranging from trains to sub-systems and signalling. The company also provides complete transport systems, e-mobility technology and maintenance services. As an innovation driver, Bombardier Transportation continuously breaks new ground in sustainable mobility. It provides integrated solutions that create substantial benefits for operators, passengers and the environment. Headquartered in Berlin, Germany, Bombardier Transportation employs around 39,850 people and its products and services operate in over 60 countries.

About Bombardier

With over 69,500 employees across four business segments, Bombardier is a global leader in the transportation industry, creating innovative and game-changing planes and trains. Our products and services provide world-class transportation experiences that set new standards in passenger comfort, energy efficiency, reliability and safety.

Headquartered in Montreal, Canada, Bombardier has production and engineering sites in 28 countries across the segments of Transportation, Business Aircraft, Commercial Aircraft and Aerostructures and Engineering Services. Bombardier shares are traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange (BBD). In the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, Bombardier posted revenues of \$16.2 billion US. News and information are available at bombardier.com or follow us on Twitter [@Bombardier](https://twitter.com/Bombardier).