

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Rail Minister Claire Perry MP welcomes arrival of first Hitachi pre-series Class 800 train for Intercity Express Programme**

*Hitachi Rail Europe, Wallenius Wilhelmsen, Hitachi Transport Systems and ABP join the minister in celebrating train arrival at Port of Southampton*

Port of Southampton, March 12, 2015 – Rail Minister Claire Perry MP, Hitachi Rail Europe Ltd, Hitachi Transport and shipping company Wallenius Wilhelmsen today celebrated the arrival of the first pre-series Class 800 train for the Intercity Express Programme (IEP) at the Port of Southampton, UK.

Train 800-001 is the first five-car pre-series train to be shipped to the UK from Japan, with 110 trains for the £5.7bn Department for Transport scheme being built at the Hitachi Rail Vehicle Manufacturing Facility in Newton Aycliffe, County Durham.

During today's ceremony, attendees were invited quayside to view the unloading of the iconic train carriages from the ship the 'Tamerlane'. The ship is a roll-on, roll-off vessel, and the carriages were hauled off using a tractor.

Speeches were then given by Rail Minister Claire Perry, Keiichi Hayashi, Japanese Ambassador to the UK Government, Andy Barr, Chief Operating Officer, Hitachi Rail Europe and Christopher Connor, Chief Executive Officer, Wallenius Wilhelmsen.

Rail Minister Claire Perry said: "It is hugely exciting to witness the arrival of the first state-of-the-art IEP train on British soil. These trains will transform rail travel for passengers travelling between many of the great towns and cities of England, Scotland and Wales; provide a massive jobs boost for Britain and deliver billions of pounds of benefits for our economy."

"We are investing record amounts building a world-class railway that provides more seats, more services and better journeys. IEP trains are a crucial part of this and it is fantastic that we are on track for the new fleet to enter service on schedule."

- more -

“The IEP is also helping to secure long-term economic growth by creating hundreds of jobs and apprenticeships at Hitachi’s new factory in County Durham, as well as thousands more jobs across the UK supply chain. I cannot wait to see the trains being manufactured in Britain and passengers using them.”

Andy Barr, Chief Operating Officer, Hitachi Rail Europe, said: “The arrival of the first train here in the UK is a major achievement for everybody involved in building this train – our colleagues in Japan, our UK suppliers and also the team from Newton Aycliffe, who worked on this train in Japan to hone their train-building skills. Today marks a new departure in the Intercity Express Programme for Hitachi Rail Europe, as we enter the test phase and build up to the opening of our Rail Vehicle Manufacturing Facility in the autumn of this year.”

The punctual arrival of this pre-series train marks the completion of yet another successful milestone in the project.

Train 800-001, which left Hitachi Rail’s Kasado Works in Kudamatsu City, Japan, on January 7, 2015, is evidence of Hitachi’s strong commitment to the UK supply chain. It has been built with the help of almost 30 UK-based suppliers and many more from the rest of Europe. Representatives of these companies from across the different UK regions attended the event, including DCA Design International (interior design), Manchester-based Lucchini (wheelsets), Lincolnshire-based Eminox (exhaust systems), Derby-based Dellner (gangways and couplers), Knorr Bremse in Somerset (brake systems) and Worcester-based Arrowvale (driver’s safety device).

Hitachi Rail Europe also sees Train 800-001 as a ‘technology transfer vehicle,’ with staff from the Newton Aycliffe factory in the UK having spent around 3,000 man-hours working alongside the staff in Kasado, building the train. As the project enters this latest phase, these employees are bringing their knowledge back to the North East to pass on to the UK workforce, allowing them to hone their train-building skills.

This pre-series train is scheduled to begin running tests, as well as serving for training of onboard staff, from April of this year. This will take place on a closed circuit at Old Dalby testing facility and in a Signal Protected Zone (SPZ) on the East Coast Main Line.

The Intercity Express Programme is a £5.7bn Government project to replace the Intercity 125 and Intercity 225 fleets on the East Coast and Great Western Main Lines with new high-speed trains. Hitachi Rail Europe, as part of the Agility Trains consortium, has been contracted to provide the design, build, finance and maintenance of rolling stock, over a 27.5 year period, of 122 trains on the programme.

Trains destined for the Great Western Main Line will be introduced in 2017. The East Coast Main Line will see its new trains go into passenger service in 2018. The final delivery of all trains for the Great Western and East Coast Main Lines will be completed by 2020.

Hitachi Rail Europe is currently in the process of building a Rail Vehicle Manufacturing Facility in Newton Aycliffe, County Durham to support the programme and the company's wider UK and European contract awards. This plant, which represents an investment of approximately £82 million, will be completed in summer 2015, and the production of the bulk of the Class 800/801 series trains is scheduled to begin there in 2016.

The recruitment of employees for the Rail Vehicle Manufacturing Facility is ongoing, with 56 members of staff already having been hired, including four apprentices and plans underway to ramp up recruitment during 2015 and 2016.

This includes the recruitment of design engineers to Hitachi Rail Europe's UK Design Office in Newton Aycliffe, which was set up in October last year. The team has so far grown to eight design engineers.

By the end of 2015, employment figures will have risen to 200, with an additional 400 staff being employed in 2016. A total of approximately 730 employees will eventually be hired, including research and development facilities staff.

-- Ends --

**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 2013 (ended March 31, 2014) totaled 9,616 billion yen (\$93.4 billion). Hitachi is focusing more than ever on the Social Innovation Business, which includes infrastructure systems, information & telecommunication systems, power 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>.

**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 ageing 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) .

**###**

---

Information contained in this news release is current as of the date of the press announcement, but may be subject to change without prior notice.

---