

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Great Western Railway increases Hitachi Intercity fleet size with
new multi-million pound order**

3rd August 2016 – Great Western Railway (GWR) has confirmed it will order an additional seven bi-mode Intercity Express Trains as part of a new multi-million pound deal with Hitachi Rail Europe and its finance partner Eversholt Rail Group.

These trains are in addition to the 57 trains Hitachi Rail is delivering to GWR as part of the UK government's Intercity Express Programme (IEP) from next year, and the separately financed 29 trains ordered last year that will come into passenger service in 2018.

The new trains will be built by Hitachi Rail Italy at its Pistoia manufacturing facility.

Mark Hopwood, Managing Director, Great Western Railway said:

"This complements the 86 brand new trains due to start operating across the GWR network next year. They give us greater flexibility in our fleet to deliver faster more frequent services and additional seats for customers, particularly while Network Rail completes the modernisation of the Great Western Main Line."

Mary Kenny, Chief Executive Officer of Eversholt Rail Group added:

"We are delighted to extend our partnership with FirstGroup, GWR and Hitachi to deliver more new high-quality trains that will enhance the passengers' journey experience."

Karen Boswell, Managing Director of Hitachi Rail Europe said of the deal announcement;

"Hitachi is pleased GWR and Eversholt Rail Group have exercised one of the options they have with us to increase their fleet. This further strengthens our working relationship with two major customers. It is a further endorsement of our current work delivering modern, high-speed modern trains, connecting people and communities across the GWR network. "

"The iconic image of this brand new, high-speed fleet operating on a railway rich in heritage will be another landmark moment for Hitachi and one we are delighted to make a reality."

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Maurizio Manfellotto, CEO of Hitachi Rail Italy, highlighted:

"This extended train order highlights the success of Hitachi Rail as a group, which includes increasing demand for our facilities in Italy. Hitachi Rail Italy is particularly proud of this further proof of trust in our capabilities, and we are working hard to deliver a train fleet that meets the expectations of Great Western Railway and its own customers."

"These new trains will be high-speed Intercity, equipped with hybrid traction, and will have on board the best technologies to meet passenger comfort and safety."

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About Great Western Railway

Great Western Railway (GWR) provides high speed, commuter, regional and branch line train services. We help over 100 million passengers reach their destinations every year - across South Wales, the West Country, the Cotswolds, and large parts of Southern England. We're currently seeing the biggest investment in the network since Brunel so we can offer more trains, more seats, and shorter, more frequent journeys and continue the network's heritage of helping connect more businesses to new and prosperous markets. Through a series of initiatives we aim to be a good neighbour to the communities we serve and are committed to making a positive social impact in those regions. Learn how we're Building a Greater West at GWR.com. GWR is a FirstGroup company.

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 UK Department for Transport's Intercity Express Programme, Hitachi Rail Europe will replace the UK's fleet of intercity trains, having established a new rolling stock manufacturing facility in Newton Aycliffe, UK for this purpose.

For more information about the company, please visit: www.Hitachirail-eu.com.

About Eversholt Rail Group

Eversholt Rail Group owns UK passenger and freight rolling stock and has more than 20 years of experience in through-life rolling stock asset and project management. Over the past two decades, it has invested more than £4bn in rolling stock and today is a supplier to many the UK's leading Train Operating Companies.

Further information can be obtained on www.eversholtrail.co.uk

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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.
