

On 5th February, Linbrooke Services and ntrs celebrated the official opening of its state-of-the-art National Training Academy (NTA) in Sheffield, pictured right. Over 130 visitors were in attendance including local MP Angela Smith, Sheffield's Deputy Lord Mayor, Cllr Talib Hussain and music mogul, railway enthusiast and Patron of NSARE, Pete Waterman. With its authentic platform, tracks and complement of both legacy and traditional equipment, Linbrooke's National Training Academy is established on a foundation of signalling, telecommunications and power expertise and aims to continually provide high-calibre training. It offers government accredited, safe and practical training courses from basic appreciation right through to high-level competency. The academy also provides assistance in the up-skilling of current industry teams and personnel.



Network Rail and Abellio have appointed Phil Verster as Managing Director for the planned Abellio ScotRail/Network Rail Alliance in Scotland. Prior to joining Network Rail in 2012, Phil was Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Irish Rail, and before that Fleet Director at South Eastern Trains. He will work closely with Abellio's mobilisation and transition team, the ScotRail leadership team and Network Rail to plan and organise the alliance transition arrangements. He will also facilitate an orderly and effective handover from Steve Montgomery who has agreed to lead the new ScotRail franchise during the initial period of operations. Phil is currently Route Managing Director of Network Rail's London North East Route where he has led the implementation of continuous improvement to achieve cost benefits on the East Coast Main Line.



HS2 has made the following appointments:

Stuart Westgate has been appointed Programme Development Director (Internal Sponsor) and will report directly to Chief Executive, Simon Kirby. He joins from KPMG where he spent four years as Director of Major Projects Advisory. His previous roles include Principal Sponsor in the Government's UK Roads Programme, Deputy Director for London Underground's Cooling the Tube Programme and Programme Manager for the Strategic Rail Authority for the integration of HS1 and Thameslink at St. Pancras.

Roger Mountford has been appointed as a Non-Executive Director. Roger is a former member of the Board of the Civil Aviation Authority as well as Chair of The Housing Finance Corporation. He is currently Chairman of HgCapital trust, an independent trustee of several pension schemes and a member of the Council of the London School of Economics.

Duncan Sutherland has been reappointed as a Non-Executive Director for a further three-year term. Prior to joining HS2, Duncan undertook a number of senior development roles working with local authorities. For the last 12 years, he has worked with local authorities and developers as Director of Regeneration at Sigma Capital. He also spent eight years on the boards of British Waterways and Scottish Canals and is now on the Advisory Board for the Regeneration Investment Organisation.

James Rollin has joined Bombardier Transportation as its Head of Public Relations and Marketing, UK. He will be responsible for coordinating all external communications activities and building relationships with industry media and stakeholders. James was previously Marketing Communications Manager at Interfleet Technology. Joining Interfleet in 1995, he supported the company through its transition from being part of British Rail during rail privatisation (as a management buyout in 1996) to its subsequent growth as a private company and through to its sale to SNC Lavalin in 2011.



Siemens Rail Automation has appointed Steve Creighton as its Delivery Director, Central East. Based in York, Steve will take overall responsibility for the company's portfolio of projects delivered from the Central East region. He joined Siemens in March 2014 as Programme Director for the region, leading the company's project management and planning community. Steve will take overall responsibility for a range of projects including Sheffield Re-control, Great Northern Great Eastern (NGGE), North Lincolnshire Resignalling and Brigg Resignalling.



Steve Griffiths has been appointed as London Underground's Chief Operating Officer. Steve will join the organisation in May from Virgin Atlantic, assuming accountability for London Underground's operations and maintenance. He will report to Mike Brown, Managing Director. After starting his career with Rolls-Royce, Steve became a senior engineer in its Product Support and Engineering division before joining Virgin Atlantic. As its Director of Engineering, he was responsible for all aspects of aircraft engineering and maintenance. Steve was appointed as the airline's Chief Operating Officer in 2009, responsible for engineering, operations, airports, cabin crew, product and cargo. Nick Brown, interim Chief Operating Officer since December, remains in position until June and will be responsible for London Underground's operations and maintenance until Steve takes over.

Story Contracting has made the following appointments:

John MacArthur has been appointed to the Rail Division as Head of Operations, covering Scotland. John joins from Balfour Beatty where he was Contract Manager for rail in Scotland. He will be responsible for managing and developing the Story team in Scotland with a focus on the Scot 004 Framework package. His appointment follows the addition of Alan Rundell and Eddie Esdale as scheme project managers to the team in Scotland. Eddie has joined from Balfour Beatty as a site agent while Alan arrives from Spencer Group as a project manager.



Anouska Chisholm has been appointed Stakeholder Manager in the Rail Division. Anouska brings a wealth of experience working for train operating companies, moving from GTR where she was project manager. Her role will focus on managing the interface between Story and the various stakeholder groups surrounding future complex schemes, such as stations.



Surele Wykes (right) has been appointed Marketing and Communications Coordinator. This follows the appointment of Emma Martin (below right) as Marketing and Communications Manager in late 2014. Surele and Emma will work together, supporting Story's rail, construction and plant businesses. Surele joins from Direct Rail Services whilst Emma has over 10 years' experience in marketing and communications in the public and private sectors.

