

Railtex 2017 Press Release February 2017

For immediate release

### **Railtex on track for the NEC**

Railtex, the UK's leading exhibition of railway technology, products and services, takes place at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham from 9 to 11 May. This will be thirteenth of these popular and successful industry events.

The number of exhibitors taking part in the show continues to grow. By mid-February the figure had surpassed 400. And with participating companies covering all sectors of the supply chain – from the best known names serving the UK market to the smallest specialist firms – the event offers something of interest for everyone. Check the Railtex website at [www.railtex.co.uk](http://www.railtex.co.uk) to see an up to date list of exhibitors.

As well as showcasing the latest innovations from the industry's supply chain, Railtex also offers great opportunities for gaining a better understanding of trends in rail policy and technology at a time when investments in Britain's network are running at an unprecedented level. Taking place throughout the show, a programme of technical seminars, discussion forums and project briefings from high-profile industry representatives will all be open to everyone attending.

### **Keynote speeches**

Daily keynote speeches will be the highlight of our education programme. On the first day of Railtex Rail Minister Paul Maynard will deliver a keynote address, as well as formally open the show. He was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport on the 17 July 2016. He was elected Conservative MP for Blackpool and Cleveleys in 2010. Prior to his parliamentary career Paul worked in politics within the Conservative Party and as part of the think tank Reform. From 2010 to 2012, Paul was appointed to the Transport Select Committee and has also worked as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister for Government, Oliver Letwin. Paul was educated at St Ambrose College, in Altrincham and was awarded a First Class History degree at University College, Oxford.

The keynote speech on the second day, 10 May, will be by Dr Francis Paonessa, Network Rail's managing director Infrastructure Projects. Francis joined Network Rail in 2014, having most recently been managing director UK, Bombardier. He started his career with shipbuilder Vosper Thornycroft in 1992, initially as a mechanical design engineer, and joined Bombardier in 2010 as president of UK rolling stock. Francis is a Chartered Engineer and a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. Francis is leading the delivery of £25bn of infrastructure renewals and enhancements, comprising thousands of projects around the country aimed at delivering a bigger, better railway enabling more trains to run, at higher speeds with more seats and better facilities at stations up and down the country.

On the third day the keynote speaker will be Professor Andrew McNaughton, Technical Director at High Speed Two Ltd, the government body charged with planning and delivering the UK's high-speed network. Andrew McNaughton was appointed Technical Director at High Speed Two Limited in February 2012, following 2 years as Chief Engineer. Andrew is also Special Professor of Rail Engineering at Nottingham University; a Visiting Professor of Engineering at both Imperial College London and Southampton University; Vice Chair of the EU Transport Advisory Group; Chair of the European Rail Research Advisory Council and Special Advisor on rail to the Australian Government. He was previously Chief Engineer at Network Rail.

Advance registration via [www.railtex.co.uk](http://www.railtex.co.uk) gives free access to Railtex over all three days of the event, and enables visitors to join all the activities taking place as part of the event. There will be an entry fee for those who have not registered in advance.

For stand enquiries, please contact the organisers via [www.railtex.co.uk](http://www.railtex.co.uk)