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PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

## **RAIL MINISTER TO OPEN RAILTEX**

Railtex organisers Mack Brooks Exhibitions are pleased to confirm that Rail Minister Paul Maynard MP has kindly agreed to open this year's show, which takes place at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham from 9 to 11 May.

Member of Parliament for Blackpool and Cleveleys since 2010, Paul Maynard took up his post as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport in July last year. His responsibilities cover rail, including housing development, railway security and light rail.

As well as formally opening the three-day event on 9 May, the Minister will deliver a keynote address that can be expected to give insights into current Government rail policies. His speech will be a highlight of a wide-ranging programme of activities taking place throughout the exhibition. In addition to keynote addresses from leading industry figures, the programme will include technical seminars, discussion forums and project briefings by representatives from organisations such as HS2, Digital Railway, DfT, Rail Delivery Group, Network Rail, Midlands Engine and the Rail Supply Group. These will all take place within the exhibition hall and will be open to everyone attending Railtex.

Exhibition Manager Kirsten Whitehouse says: "We are very pleased that the Minister has agreed to open this year's show and we know that sentiment will be shared by the industry. Railtex is the largest event of its kind in the UK. As well as attracting companies that are crucial to the continuing development of the country's rail network, it is also a showcase for innovative British firms seeking the wider global markets that are poised to become increasingly important. The Minister's presence will underline the important role the supply sector plays in meeting the needs of a growing domestic rail network, developing high-level technologies and skills and building export potential."

By mid-January the number of companies planning to exhibit at Railtex 2017, the thirteenth of these events covering all aspects of railway technology, had risen to 340. More information including the latest list of exhibitors is available at [www.railtex.co.uk](http://www.railtex.co.uk).

For further press information contact:

Ken Harris

Tel: (+44) (0)1273 300 434

Email: [ken.harris@mackbrooks.co.uk](mailto:ken.harris@mackbrooks.co.uk)

For general enquiries contact:

Kirsten Whitehouse, Natalie Parker or Emma Preston

Tel: (+44) (0)1727 814 400

Fax: (+44) (0)1727 814 401

Email: [railtex@mackbrooks.co.uk](mailto:railtex@mackbrooks.co.uk)

## **Note to Editors**

Railtex 2017

Railtex is the essential showcase for products and services for the all sectors of the rail market in the UK. The show is held biennially and has successfully served this market for more than 25 years. It is organised by Mack Brooks Exhibitions ([www.mackbrooks.com](http://www.mackbrooks.com)), which also runs the Infrarail series of railway infrastructure technology shows. Outside the UK, the company's regular rail industry exhibitions include SIFER in France and EXPO Ferroviaria in Italy.