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INFRARAIL BOOSTED BY INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS

The timing of next year's Infrarail 2016 exhibition coincides well with a strengthening focus by the UK government on the long-term development of the country's national infrastructure. Taking place at ExCeL London in the capital's Docklands from 12 to 14 April 2016, Infrarail will showcase the full range of systems, equipment and skills needed to create, operate and maintain the fixed assets of main line and urban railway networks.

Earlier this month the Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne announced the creation of a new independent National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) charged with offering unbiased analysis of the UK's long-term infrastructure needs. The NIC has already begun work, led by Lord Andrew Adonis as its first chairman.

Initially the NIC is focusing on:

- ✧ A plan to transform the connectivity of cities in northern England, including high-speed rail (HS3).
- ✧ Priorities for future large-scale investment in London's public transport infrastructure.
- ✧ How to ensure investment in energy infrastructure can meet future demand in the most efficient way.

Its advice to the government on these will be published before next year's Budget. The NIC will also begin work on a national infrastructure assessment, looking ahead to requirements for the next 30 years.

Rail already features prominently in the government's National Infrastructure Pipeline, its

report on planned investments published in July. This identifies future spending of £411 billion on 265 programmes and 299 projects. Transport accounts for £127.4 billion or 31% by value of this total, with nearly three-quarters of that destined for railway schemes. Additional spending is planned by devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on their own networks.

The prospect of a clearer long-term approach to investing in the UK's national infrastructure is good news for companies planning to exhibit at Infrarail – and at the CITE - Civil Infrastructure & Technology Exhibition 2016 which will take place alongside it at ExCeL London. Many of the products and services covered by CITE 2016 are equally applicable to rail, highways, utilities and communications networks.

Sectors represented by CITE exhibitors will include civil engineering, construction services and products, plant and equipment, geotechnical, tunnelling, consultancy and project management, as well as IT products and services. Among fields covered by Infrarail are track construction and maintenance, signalling and communications, electrification, and installations such as stations and maintenance depots, plus key areas such as recruitment and training, occupational health and security.

Kirsten Whitehouse, Exhibition Manager for both events, says: “Staging these two shows together offers many benefits for exhibitors and visitors. Infrarail has a well established reputation for introducing the very latest in technology and services specifically for the rail infrastructure market. And CITE fits ideally with the government's recent initiatives to prioritise long-term investments in national infrastructure by providing a professional showcase for companies offering the civil engineering and construction equipment, products and skills needed to create and enhance these major vital networks.”

Both exhibitions will feature keynote speeches by leading figures, industry seminars, project briefings and discussion groups – all free to attend and aimed at providing valuable insights into trends in technology and policy.

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Note to Editors

Infrarail 2016

Infrarail is the essential showcase in the UK for railway infrastructure products and services. The show is held biennially and has successfully served this market for more than 20 years. It is organised by Mack Brooks Exhibitions (www.mackbrooks.com), which also runs the market-leading Railtex series of railway technology events. Outside the UK, the company's regular rail industry exhibitions include EXPO Ferroviaria in Italy and SIFER in France, while 2016 will see the first Exporail South East Asia show. In addition, Mack Brooks is active in other market sectors, among them the metal industries, airport equipment, and printing and converting technology.

www.infrarail.com

CITE 2016

CITE is the UK's showcase for civil infrastructure equipment, products and services. Focusing on infrastructure for transport, utilities, communications, energy and flood management, it is organised by Mack Brooks Exhibitions (www.mackbrooks.com), which also runs the successful Railtex and Infrarail series of railway technology events in the UK. Internationally, the company stages exhibitions in market sectors that include the metal industries, airport equipment, and printing and converting technology, as well as rail.

www.cite-uk.com