

## £3.6 billion to be Invested in Railway Signalling

Network Rail will be investing up to £3.6bn in railway signalling over the next five years to improve the reliability of systems on Britain's railways, an investment the national transport body says will enable more trains to run.

Five framework contracts, worth an estimated £2.4bn over control period 6 (2019-2024), and up to £3.6bn including options to extend for the first two years of control period 7 (2024-2026), aim to improve asset reliability and in turn reduce delays for the users of the railway - passengers and freight operators - while also increasing capacity on the network.

The frameworks, which went live on 31 January 2020, are split into five geographical lots. They have been awarded to:

- Alstom (Southern Region and Eastern region);
- Siemens Mobility Ltd (Scotland Region and North West & Central region);
- A joint venture between Hitachi Rail STS UK Ltd and Linbrooke Services Ltd (Wales & Western region).

Network Rail says these frameworks form part of a much wider new approach to commerciality, as it becomes more focused on securing better deals with the supply chain to deliver a better-value railway for passengers. The company's ambition is to become easier to work with and a more efficient and dependable partner, while breaking down barriers to make it easier for other organisations to invest in and build on the railway. Through a comprehensive efficiency portfolio encompassing over 1,000 initiatives, Network Rail says it will save £3.5bn over CP6.

Paul Wright, Network Rail's commercial director, said: "The major signalling frameworks are the final awards in a three-tier approach to signalling delivery for Control Period 6. The awards have gone to suppliers that, between them, have many years of signalling experience and will help Network Rail facilitate key signalling renewals safely and efficiently. We look forward to working with the successful suppliers to deliver signalling projects that are truly on the side of passengers and freight users."

Speaking on behalf of the consortia, Jim Brewin, UK country lead, Hitachi Rail, and Jason Pearce, managing director, Linbrooke Rail, said: "On behalf of both organisations, this award is a significant honour and a reflection of our individual companies' successful track records in supporting UK rail. Working with our Wales and Western Network Rail partners, the consortia intend to deliver industry challenging connectivity and signalling technology for the benefit of passengers.

The framework contract won by Hitachi Rail, working in partnership with Linbrooke covers the railway network in Wales, the Thames Valley, West of England and the South West peninsula. Amounting to over 2700 miles of track, the railway in these regions serves over 122 million passengers every year who over the next Control Period will see major benefits from the signalling upgrades and replacement that Hitachi and Linbrooke will undertake.