

Thales wins NR digital contract

THALES HAS won a contract to implement a digital trust system for Network Rail Telecom to improve cybersecurity across the company's operations.

The system will allow NRT to assign and centrally manage digital certificates and authentication to services across the spectrum of Network Rail operations. It follows the award of a contract last year to introduce the Online Key Management System on the East Coast main line with the East Coast Digital Programme.

The contract to design, build, test and deliver Enterprise CA/PKI includes a discovery phase, now completed, which has identified new systems and capability to grow the contract to cover additional systems and services not covered by the original tender.

Enterprise CA/PKI will also need to accommodate the additional

services and organisations that will be introduced when Great British Railways is formed. The contract includes a three-year support period with the option of two 12-month extensions, giving the potential to develop the service further.

Also within the contract is the responsibility to periodically generate and protect Network Rail's CA/PKI root keys. The root key certificate (a string of alphanumeric characters) is important because this 'master key certificate' verifies all the certificates below it. The security of the root certificate determines the security of the entire Network Rail Enterprise CA/PKI system. Thales is entrusted to securely store Network Rail's root CAs within its List X facility, a commercial site used to securely hold UK government information.

Charities benefit from golf day

A RECORD charitable donation of £4,000 has been made by the Rail Forum to Railway Mission and The Haven Refuge following the industry body's golf day on 8 July.

Twenty-eight teams competed over the 18 holes at Branston Golf Club for the Neil Harvey Memorial Trophy. Rail Forum Chief Executive Elaine Clark said: 'We would like to thank all the teams that took part in our golf day. We raised an amazing and record-breaking amount, enabling us to support The Haven and Railway Mission, which are two very worthwhile charities. A special thanks also goes to our event sponsors, WH Davis and TVS SCS.'

We are already looking forward to next year which will see us move to the highly prestigious Horsley Lodge Championship Course.'

Railway Mission Chaplain Mike Roberts added: 'We are always running with a budget that stretches us and the work we do, therefore when we are supported by organisations and companies from the wider rail industry it is especially appreciated and also a sign of affirmation of the work that we are able to do within the supply chain and some SMEs. The donation will go a long way in resourcing the support we give across the industry.'

Engineering academy launched



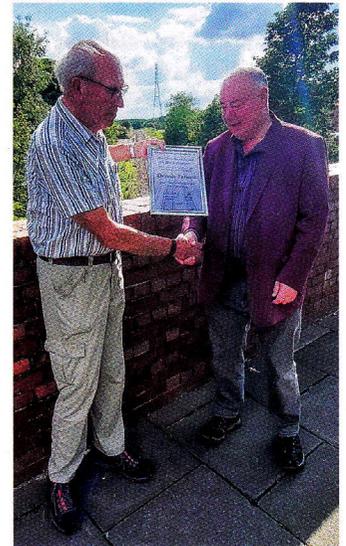
Entrepreneurial spirit: 25-year-old Clyne Abertelli has set up a new organisation called Engineering Academy to help businesses and individuals develop their skills by solving real-life industry challenges.

SENRUG wins four awards

THE SOUTH East and East Northumberland Rail Users' Group, better known as SENRUG, has been recognised with four awards from Railfuture.

Its newsletter won joint gold, with the award given to Editor Dave Shaw. It scooped joint Silver in the best website section, and the same award for Best Campaign. Chair Dennis Fancett won joint silver in the best campaigner category.

Mr Fancett highlighted the group's success in campaigning for the reopening of the Ashington, Blyth and Tyne line, now branded the Northumberland line. However, he added: 'We are not stopping here. We have plans for further extensions for the Northumberland line, which we are already discussing with the local authority, and neither are we neglecting the need to protect and develop the services on South and East Northumberland's existing rail routes.'



Concerted campaigning rewarded: SENRUG Chair Dennis Fancett (right) collects the Railfuture awards at the site of the future Seaton Delaval station on the Northumberland line. Courtesy Dave Shaw/SENRUG

Horns tested at Long Marston

PORTERBROOK'S LONG Marston Rail Innovation Centre recently hosted teams from Ricardo and the Rail Safety and Standards Board to investigate and test warning horn patterns.

The RSSB is researching the optimisation of drivers' use of audible warnings in all potential warning scenarios. During the testing, it recorded the 14 different warning horn patterns from a train, as identified in the Rule Book requirements from RSSB and the

research team's consultation with drivers. The horn patterns were recorded by a Ricardo noise engineer and will now be played back to a sample of track workers, depot staff, station staff and members of the public. They will be asked questions relating to the sound to see if they can determine what the warning means.

The train was positioned to be static and away from buildings in an outside space to ensure a high-quality sound recording.

Eversholt adopts Aiimi

TRAIN LEASING company Eversholt Rail has adopted the artificial intelligence-powered platform Aiimi Insight Engine to improve its business intelligence

and insights. It will examine sources including industry press, websites and social media platforms to try and identify previously difficult to discover insights.



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