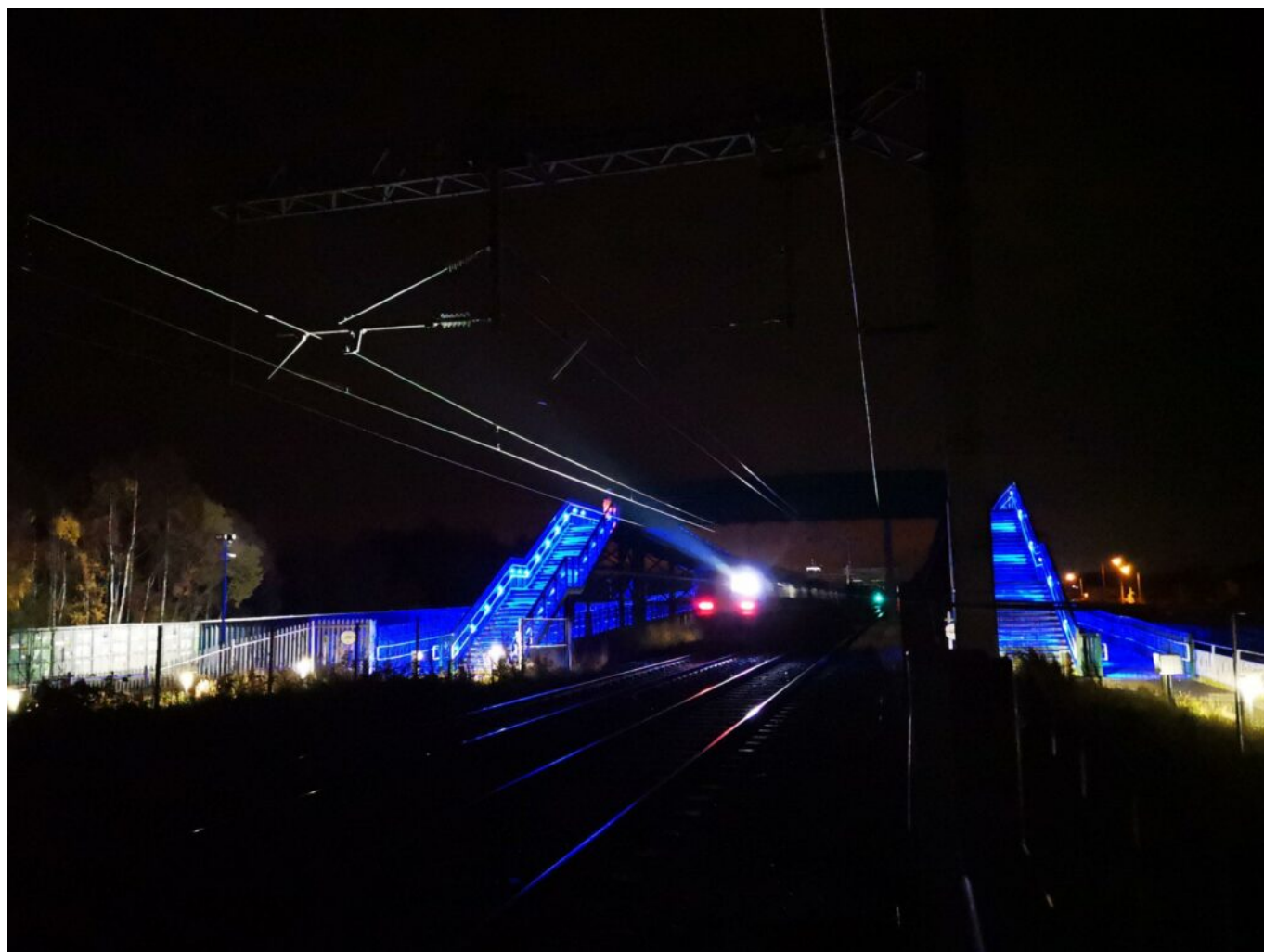


First electric train for Stirling-Dunblane-Alloa line

November 28, 2018



Network Rail achieved another key milestone on the Stirling-Dunblane-Alloa Electrification Project overnight with the first electric test train running on the route.

The train (a class 380) successfully completed test runs at line speed along the newly electrified lines to Dunblane and Alloa overnight on Tuesday into Wednesday.

Further test trains will run during this week ahead of the introduction of ScotRail electric passenger services on the line from December 9.

Over the last two years engineers have installed over 2,000 stanchions and structures supporting more than 300km of overhead wires along the 50km route.

Major modifications have also been carried out to bridges along the route to create enough space for the

new overhead lines and accessibility is being improved for customers at Stirling with the installation of a new footbridge and lifts providing step-free access to all platforms.

Delivered on-time, the Scottish Government-funded project will enable:

- The introduction of class 385 electric trains which will offer a better travelling experience and reduce some journey times from Stirling to Glasgow and Edinburgh.
- More seats on services between Alloa, Dunblane, Bridge of Allan and Stirling to Glasgow and Edinburgh.
- A reduction of noise and better air quality for those who live and work near the railway.

Iain McFarlane, Network Rail's delivery director for the Stirling- Dunblane-Alloa project, said: "Successfully running this first test train brings the railway a step closer to being able to introduce electric services for customers.

"Electrification will transform travel across the central belt of Scotland - increasing the number of seats, reducing journey times and cutting emissions by introducing more modern and greener trains to the route."