

GB Railfreight announces new 10-year locomotive leasing deal with Akiem

January 9, 2023



GB Railfreight (GBRf) has announced a new 10-year locomotive leasing deal with Akiem, a leading European rolling stock leasing company.

The agreement will see £25 million invested to increase the number of locomotives across GBRf's operations. This investment has been made possible by GBRf's recent wins in the intermodal sector and continuing growth across a number of key markets.

The 11 Class 77 and Class 66 locomotives will operate services for businesses across intermodal, energy generation, infrastructure, waste, construction and rail services. They will arrive from continental Europe between January 2023 and May 2024.

On arrival in the UK, further investment will be made to convert the locomotives to make them compliant for UK service at EMD Doncaster Roberts Road. The first of the locomotives is expected to begin operating across the UK's rail network by summer 2023.

John Smith, Chief Executive Officer of GB Railfreight said: "Over the past two years we've seen a

significant growth in rail freight, with new customers and markets coming to us for support with their supply chains. This new deal with Akiem is part of our commitment to maintain this growth and offer a more sustainable alternative to transporting goods across the UK.”

Simon-Pierre Trezeguet, Managing Director of Akiem Locomotive Leasing Business Unit said: “We are very pleased to be adding such renown and appreciated CI66 & CI77 locomotives to the UK market while strengthening our partnership with GBRf. In a few months’ time, when our mainland European high-performance CI 66 & CI77 have been converted into locomotives perfectly adapted to the UK market, thanks to the GBRf teams technical expertise, they will greatly contribute to the development of rail freight across the United Kingdom.”

Photo credit: GB Railfreight