

The Strategic Investor will play a lead role in the project's successful and timely implementation, along with further commercialisation of the GCRE opportunity. The Strategic Investor could be a single investor

or a consortium of investors, who will acquire a majority shareholding in and control of GCRE Ltd.

A formal procurement process has begun with the publication of a Prior Information Notice (PIN).

Chief executive of GCRE Simon Jones said: “The Global Centre of Rail Excellence is one of the most important and creative rail infrastructure projects in rail today. As a purpose-built, integrated site for world class testing, research and development of rolling stock, infrastructure and new rail technologies, it will be a vital addition to the railway industry landscape, not just in the UK but across Europe.

“Our plan has always been to work with private sector partners to seek their investment and, importantly, their knowledge and skills in key areas such as rail and energy to realise the exciting GCRE vision as strategic partners. Both Welsh and UK governments recognise that as a commercial venture GCRE needs private sector support to be built and become established.

“With the launch of a procurement process this week we want to encourage partners from across the world to look at our project and to recognise the strong investment opportunity it represents.

“The GCRE project has attracted significant interest from right across the rail industry. Manufacturers and major parts of the rail supply chain see the chance to test and refine their products at a world class site, helping them to become more commercially successful and support the vital industry work needed to get to Net Zero. It’s this interest that helps make GCRE such a strong commercial proposition.”

The GCRE project includes the construction of a £250 million railway. Further phases of potential investment include development of the wider commercial potential of the 700 hectare site – including the creation of a new business technology park and hotel. The total investment for the development, including initial property developments and the traction power supply, is £400 million.

Planning permission has been secured for the project and its twenty four hour, seven day a week operation, with construction beginning in early 2023. Site clearance has already commenced and an experienced management team is in place to drive the project forward.

The GCRE team have been working with EY as financial adviser and Ashurst LLP as legal adviser to develop the procurement process, details of which have been published today through a [Prior Information Notice \(PIN\)](#).

Following this, on Wednesday 7 December 2022, the GCRE team will be holding an event in London to discuss the opportunity ahead in more detail with potential strategic investors. The event will include presentations on the GCRE project with supporting speakers from Government and the wider industry.

Simon Jones added: “This investment opportunity is unique and we welcome interest from investment partners with experience in areas including rail infrastructure, energy and major projects.

“An important part of our work will be in energy. To ensure that we meet the power needs of our customers; deliver on our Net Zero ambitions and harness the commercial potential of our large site, we are also keen to talk to investment partners with experience of large energy systems with an appetite to

invest in decarbonising the railway and supporting the work we are doing.

“This is an incredibly exciting opportunity to become part of a critical infrastructure project for rail, with a very strong commercial future. We’re looking forward to talking with those who share our vision and can help us make it a success.”

GCRE Ltd was established in 2021 by the Welsh Government with a £50 million capital commitment. Further funding is being provided by the UK Government, including a £20 million capital commitment and £7.4 million provided through Innovate UK for Research and Development (R&D).

Details of the event for strategic investors can be found here: <https://directory.railbusinessdaily.com/gcre/>