

# HRH The Prince of Wales pays visit to CAF's Newport plant

February 24, 2020



His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales officially opened CAF's state-of-the-art manufacturing facility at Celtic Business Park in Newport, South Wales on Friday 21 February.

The Prince was given a guided tour of the production facility – currently constructing Civity DMUs for Northern and West Midlands Trains – by Darren Cumner, Chief Operating Officer of CAF Rolling Stock UK.

During the tour His Royal Highness met members of the factory workforce and vehicle manufacturing team, and learnt about the CAF digital manufacturing system.

The Prince boarded a Civity DMU destined for the Northern franchise, and was later invited to unveil a plaque to commemorate the official opening.

Darren Cumner, Chief Operating Officer of CAF Rolling Stock UK, said: "It was an honour and a pleasure to welcome His Royal Highness to officially open CAF's Newport manufacturing facility.

"The factory is fundamental to the company's growing business operations and strengthens our position as

the manufacturer of choice for the UK rail industry.”

Andrés Arizkorreta García, CAF Chief Executive, added: “CAF is committed to expanding within the UK rail market and this can best be achieved successfully by establishing this UK-based facility.

“We are proud to be part of the immediate community in Newport and are working hard to build strong links to the region around our operations. Three-quarters of our factory employees are from Wales.

“CAF is also having a positive impact on the wider UK rail industry supply chain as we continue to grow the number of local and national companies supplying components for our vehicles.”

The Spanish-based global manufacturer of specialist railway products, components and systems opened the Newport factory in September 2018 to build suburban and metro trains, high-speed trains and trams.

Following the completion of the Northern and West Midlands Trains orders, work will start on the Wales and Borders contract, where the entire fleet of 51 two-car and 26 three-car Class 197s will be built in Newport.

The first Wales and Borders bodyshell is due to be delivered to Newport next month, with production ramping up next year.

CAF invested £30m to open the factory and received significant grant support from the Welsh Government’s Inward Investment Programme.

The facility currently employs around 200 staff, which will eventually grow to around 300, providing opportunities for skilled technicians and engineers, management and support staff, as well as apprentices.

*HRH Prince of Wales officially opened the CF depot in Newport, South Wales.*

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