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October 20, 2021



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HS2 Ltd has shortlisted bidders to become the Phase 2a Design and Delivery Partner (DDP) for the new section of Britain's high speed rail network, connecting the West Midlands and Crewe.

The £500million contract will see the successful bidder partner with HS2 to lead the design and delivery of the 36-mile Phase 2a route.

The role will include management and co-ordination of key contracts for delivering the railway's detailed design and construction, which includes 2 tunnels, 17 viaducts, 65 bridges, and track along the route.

Shortlisted are 2 Connect JV, AMS JV and Jacobs UK.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Work is now underway to create the new Inverness Airport station with the start of construction of the platforms at Dalcross.

The plans for the new £14million facility will see the construction of a two-platform station on the Aberdeen-Inverness line with step-free access, via a footbridge with lifts, on the site adjacent to Inverness airport.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Network Rail is replacing track through the 180-year-old Summit Tunnel on the Calder Valley line for nine days from Saturday, as part of a £2million Great North Rail Project investment.

More than 3km of track across both railway lines will be replaced inside the 2.6km-long tunnel.

[Click here for more details.](#)

The President of the Railway Benefit Fund (RBF) has warned Rail Director readers that things will get harder for the rail industry before it gets easier.

Pete Waterman OBE is the cover feature of the latest edition of the monthly magazine covering everything from track to train, which can now be viewed online for free.

The latest magazine also features Transport for the North's Chief Executive Martin Tugwell, HS2 Minister Andrew Stephenson, Founder of Women in Rail Adeline Ginn MBE and Chair of the Rail Wellbeing Alliance John Halsall.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Photo credit: Network Rail