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December 23, 2020



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HS2 has shortlisted bidders for its track systems and for tunnel and lineside mechanical and electrical systems – contracts worth nearly £2 billion.

The winning organisations will go on to deliver around 280km of state-of-the-art high-speed track and infrastructure that will enable the UK to run some of the world's most frequent and reliable long-distance rail services.

The contract opportunities cover design and construction between London, Birmingham and Crewe, where HS2 trains will join the existing West Coast Mainline.

[Click here for more details.](#)

The Scottish Government has announced plans to extend the current Emergency Measures Agreements for the ScotRail and Caledonian Sleeper franchises.

The Government has also confirmed that the 2021 increase in rail fares will be deferred to March, when off-peak fares will increase by 0.6 per cent and peak fares increase by 1.6 per cent.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Bombardier Transportation has announced that it has signed a framework agreement with Porterbrook to fit digital onboard signalling to Bombardier Electrostar trains in the UK.

Bombardier will deliver the design work needed for the fitment of the European Train Control System equipment and the Bombardier EBI Cab 2000 onboard Automatic Train Protection system, to all Electrostar fleets in the UK.

The initial agreement is worth £11.3 million.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Finally, East Midlands Railway train driver Robert Buchanan and Network Rail Mobile Operations Manager Jim Filby have received an award for rescuing an injured swan.

The pair have received framed Hero to Animals Awards from PETA.

Robert scooped up the bird which had been hit by a freight train and stopped off at Kettering station, where Jim took over and handed the swan over to a local animal rescue charity.

Photo credit: HS2 Ltd

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