

Milestone in conversion of a DMU to a low emission hybrid drive unit

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Angel Trains Limited says it has marked an important milestone in the £4 million HyDrive project with Chiltern Railways and Magtec.

The project aims to convert a DMU into a low-emission hybrid drive unit, in a bid to pave the way for decarbonisation of the UK rail industry.

Following successful modelling, design and rig testing, a Chiltern Railways Class 165 unit has arrived at Loram UK in Derby ready to be fitted with the Magtec traction motors, range extender engines and traction batteries.

The next phase of the project will be to fit out the unit, followed by slow and line-speed testing to prove the system performance and ensure safe operation.

Kevin Tribley, CEO at Angel Trains, said: "Our investment in HyDrive demonstrates our commitment to pioneering sustainable rolling stock solutions that provide the bridge between diesel and fully electric vehicles."

“Once the Class 165 HyDrive is in operation, passengers will not only benefit from reduced journey times through the improved acceleration offered by Magtec technology, but will also experience a quieter and more environmentally friendly train due to the primary battery propulsion and lower emissions.”

Mary Hewitt, Chiltern Railways Interim Managing Director, said: “We are committed to finding innovative approaches which contribute to improving air quality at our stations.

“This exciting partnership with Angel Trains represents an important step towards a greener train fleet for Chiltern Railways and for the decarbonisation of the British Railway. We look forward to welcoming customers on board once the train comes into service.”

Photo credit: Angel Trains Limited