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New appointment at RIA for its work in the North

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Richard Carr has undertaken the role of business engagement manager for the North of England at the Railway Industry Association (RIA).

Richard's experience in the sector includes having been owner and managing director of rail equipment manufacturer Mechan, and having provided consultancy services for the University of Huddersfield and a number of supply chain companies.

He also became known as an active member of the Rail Supply Group SME and Export workstreams, and helped establish the Rail Sector Deal SME Collaboration pilot scheme.

Richard said: "It's really exciting to be joining RIA North at such an important time for the industry. With the Integrated Rail Plan now out, the Transpennine Route Upgrade underway, and preparations to bring HS2 to Manchester beginning, amongst many other projects, there is a huge amount for rail businesses to get involved with. I'm really looking forward to working with RIA, the Executive team of RIA North and businesses and stakeholders across the region, to build a strong rail supply chain across the North."

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RIA director & RIA North lead, David Clarke, said: "Richard's appointment marks a key moment for the roll out of RIA's Nations & Regions network. RIA members now have a dedicated professional in Richard who is ready to support them in the region, helping deliver a strong and successful Northern rail supply sector. Congratulations to Richard on his appointment – and welcome to the team!"

Justin Moss, chair of RIA North, said: "I'm delighted to have Richard join the RIA North team as we begin 2022. We have a really exciting year ahead, building on the work of the Northern Rail Industry Leaders as we strengthen our partnership with RIA and further grow our executive team for rail suppliers in the North. It will mean even more support, events and activity to help your businesses succeed and grow in the North."

Richard will support RIA members in the North by engaging and influencing key decision-makers in the region, delivering networking and intelligence-sharing events and supporting the delivery of the RIA North Leadership Group's priorities.