

Rail Forum welcomes GCRE as its 30th anniversary collaborative partner

January 31, 2023



Rail Forum says it is delighted to welcome the Global Centre of Rail Excellence (GCRE) as its 30th anniversary collaborative partner for 2023.

Established in 1993, the Rail Forum is a not-for-profit organisation focussed on supporting the UK supply chain and wider industry.

GCRE are one of the latest additions to the Rail Forum membership, which today has more than 360 members.

When it opens in 2025, the Global Centre of Rail Excellence will support world class research and provide facilities for testing and certification of rolling stock, infrastructure and innovative new technologies.

The partnership will see Rail Forum support GCRE's engagement with the rail supply chain, particularly in the field of infrastructure where the purpose-built site will fill a strategic gap not just in UK rail, but across Europe.

Head of Strategic Communications at GCRE, Andrew Johnson said: “The Global Centre of Rail Excellence will be a unique addition to European rail. It will meet the significant demand that has existed for many years across the continent for a purpose built, integrated site for world class research, testing and validation of new products, technologies and processes.

“Customers wanting to use our facility will come from across the UK and Europe and so it’s vital that we have the right industry partnerships in place to support the significant commercial ambitions we have for the business – particularly in areas such as rail infrastructure.

“That’s why our partnership with Rail Forum is so important. Their understanding and knowledge of the rail industry and its substantial supply chain is invaluable. Their diverse membership encompasses companies from all over the UK, from global corporations to Micro-SMEs, and as a business GCRE want to work with clients both large and small.

“Partnering with Rail Forum in their 30th year makes it even more special. I’m proud that GCRE will benefit from this unique relationship and from their significant experience.”

Chief Executive of Rail Forum, Elaine Clark said: “We are absolutely delighted to welcome GCRE as our 30th anniversary collaborative partner. When fully operational this unique facility will offer significant opportunity for the UK rail supply chain to both demonstrate and test products speeding up innovation and deployment to market.

“The Centre will also provide a fantastic ‘shopwindow’ to the world, allowing UK companies to demonstrate their products and new technologies to the export market. We are frequently told by suppliers that a barrier to export is not having their products in use in a live railway environment; GCRE will remove that barrier.

“During this partnership year we will be working with GCRE to bring engagement opportunities to the supply chain and helping to raise their profile across the industry.”