Serco Rail Technical Services launch new PADSnet railway asset configuration management system upgrade

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Serco's Derby based Rail Technical Services (SRTS) has completed a significant investment in upgrading its Traction and Rolling Stock Parts and Documentation System (PADSnet), a web-based asset configuration management system used across the rail industry.

Online access to up to date parts and documentation records is of paramount importance in supporting the safety, quality assurance and efficiency of train maintenance, overhaul and modification programmes. This usability upgrade ensures that PADSnet provides a modern, powerful user-interface to meet this need and satisfy the demands of existing and new users into the future. Extensive improvements to drawing, documentation and parts management features have been made to provide a more intuitive and user-friendly experience, enabling users to find specific documentation much more quickly and easily.

Richard Hobson, Director, SRTS said: "Serco Raildata is delighted to be launching a significant refresh and enhancement to the capability of this well proven industry database service to benefit existing and potential new users. We are committed to continuing to invest in providing first-class data management

services to our customers, keeping pace with advances in software technology and the increasing demand for online services."

About Serco Rail Technical Services (SRTS): SRTS is part of Serco's Transport business, which operates various transport services around the world (primarily rail but also air, sea and road related). A specialist provider of rolling stock testing, commissioning and technical assurance services, it is uniquely placed to provide a deep technical and practical insight into GB railway operations. From its origins in British Rail's Central Services Division in the 1990s, today it has over 50 years' experience in a broad range of rolling stock and infrastructure technical services across the rolling stock development lifecycle. SRTS provides engineers at client depots and routes across the GB rail network and since 2006 has developed and operated the UK's main high-speed test track at the Rail Innovation & Development Centre (RIDC) Melton, initially for London Underground and latterly on behalf of Network Rail. It works closely with train manufacturers to successfully deliver extensive and complex rolling stock testing programmes at this site and other worldwide test tracks and depots.

About Raildata and PADSnet: Serco's data management specialists Raildata provide professional data management services to the rail industry and is the custodian of the former British Railway Board's library of Traction and Rolling Stock drawings and other associated documents, which it manages as a service on behalf of Railway Documentation and Drawing Services Ltd (RDDS), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of RSSB. Raildata also offers data management services to the wider industry, such as ROSCOs, train manufacturers, maintainers and Network Rail.

PADSnet is a 24/7 web accessible front end to a large configuration database known as PADS (Parts And Documentation System), providing structured access to lifecycle management of train and infrastructure parts and documentation records to more than 150 railway companies supporting the management of maintenance and engineering modifications. PADS is an extensive and detailed technical engineering library containing over 800,000 components records, 500,000 drawing records and 90,000 maintenance document records, with over 3,500,000 relational links. A further 110,000 component records held in PADS have been approved by Network Rail for use in their railway infrastructure applications. Key features of PADSnet are its ability to provide real-time information on the latest versions of engineering data, ensuring controlled versions are made available to specific parties and in providing a library of customised data sets for specific purposes such as tendering for contract variations.

Photo credit: Serco