

Zero-Emission Rail Logistics Service To Launch in the UK next month

September 23, 2022



In support of the UK Government and Rail Delivery Group's commitment to green transport investment, The Office of Rail & Road (ORR) has issued a Freight Operating Licence to [Varamis Rail](#).

Offering the UK a zero-emission sustainable alternative to parcel logistics, from Autumn 2022 Varamis will be launching its first fully-electric, express rail freight service connecting Glasgow & Birmingham.

The business model is simple: Re-purposed passenger trains capable travelling at 100mph+ and utilising existing rail infrastructure to ensure the 'trunk' mileage of parcel logistics can be achieved both efficiently and with zero carbon impact. Within the first 3-years of operation, it is estimated nearly 40,000 tonnes of co² can be mitigated through a fully utilised Varamis 12-car service operating on a national programme.

[Varamis Rail](#) Managing Director, Phil Read said: "The team at Varamis Rail are delighted to be granted our Freight Operating License, which now makes us the UK's newest and greenest train operator. It's been quite a journey for the whole team since 2020 and I am very proud of the shared determination, endeavour, and passion to bring a cleaner, greener & speedier rail service to the freight & logistics sectors.

“We are now working even harder to run our first fully-electric rail logistics service from mid-October between Glasgow & Birmingham; Monday to Friday, 5-nights per week.”

Going on to thank the ORR, Phil added: “The ORR has been a great help throughout this rigorous process and we would particularly like to acknowledge the support and guidance we receive from our legal team at Stephenson Harwood. There’s also a special mention to Richard Allen, our Insurance Broker at Jobson James Rail, for arranging all of our 3rd Party Liability insurance to meet the required standards stipulated by the ORR, a very intensive process in itself.

“Varamis Rail will be signing a lease to acquire its first train in time for its October launch; a fully-electric, former passenger train re-purposed with a sole focus on delivering the UKs first high-speed and green logistics service. An extensive trial, operating services between Glasgow & Birmingham, will allow new customers to build confidence in Varamis Rail and expansion plans include additional re-purposed trains coming into the fleet to serve London from May 2023.

“With commercial businesses now actively seeking viable and proven logistics alternatives in support of Environment & Social Governance (ESG) demands, the launch of this truly zero carbon service will be a real boost to ESG reporting objectives.”

Photo credit: Varamis Rail