

# Railfreight

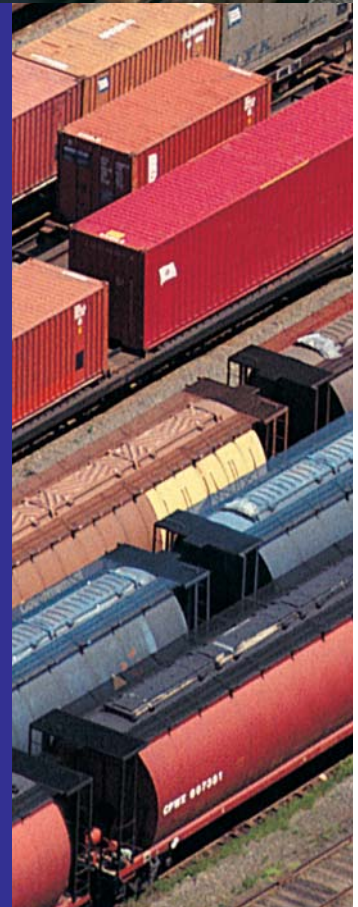
When establishing an effective rail freight operation, an integrated service plan is required, covering the pattern of rail services, type and characteristics of wagons and the mechanised terminals. To achieve low cost and efficient operation the high utilisation of expensive resources need to be effectively planned and closely monitored. We have a detailed understanding of all elements of the total logistics chain and of the role rail freight can play in today's economy.



## The railfreight challenge

Railfreight offers the most environmentally friendly transport solution for freight. However, road transport remains the dominant carrier in the majority of the freight market sectors. The railfreight challenge is to design product solutions that compete effectively with other transport modes, whilst giving customers flexibility and security, a fine balance of price and service. Part of the challenge is to change perceptions regarding railfreight to ensure that rail can seamlessly join with other modes to supply global supply chain solutions.

We can assist in providing solutions to these challenges, our experts have had wide-ranging experiences with railfreight in many countries throughout the world and innovation is an essential ingredient. Working at the cutting edge we can give railfreight hauliers, customers, terminal owners and governments the solutions to make it happen.



### How we can help

We follow all developments in railfreight closely and can thus offer clients expert advice on appropriate technologies for adoption.

We have experience in selecting strategic railfreight routes by preparing business cases and providing best fit/cost solutions.

Our team has first hand involvement in developing railfreight capability studies, covering the physical characteristics of the network (including gross trailing loads, axle loads, network gauge), freight paths and timetabling constraints (including Railsys analysis) and terminal/sidings analysis.

The work we have undertaken includes:

- determining the capability of rail network and understanding its impact on railfreight services;
  - identifying key timetable constraints, the availability of additional paths for railfreight and undertaking Railsys analysis of existing and potential railfreight services;
  - preparing business cases of the feasibility of specific routes for railfreight, based on predicted future freight flows and potential improvements in railfreight capacity and capability;
  - providing strategic advice to public bodies regarding the development potential for railfreight;
  - assessing market requirements to define the scale of operation to be provided;
- carrying out market assessments for new railfreight operators;
  - defining organisational frameworks for new and existing freight installations, assisting with recruitment; and
  - identifying and undertaking training requirements.

### Our track record

Our consultants have been responsible for a wide range of railfreight related projects and have first hand experience of working for Network Rail, railfreight groups and operators.

Some of the projects our consultants have been involved in include:

- undertaking railfreight capability studies;
- the preparation of business cases for potential railfreight users;
- the development of new terminals for the movement of finished vehicles from car assembly plants in the UK, Europe and North America;
- advice on the layout and connection of large multi user logistics sites;
- site searches for new freight terminals and assessment of the expansion potential of existing sites;
- providing market assessments and market entry strategies for new railfreight operators; and
- advice on the suitability of wagons and locomotives for freight traffic.

