

Rail Forum x International Trade Week 2026: driving global opportunities for rail

AS THE rail industry continues to evolve, businesses are increasingly looking beyond domestic markets to support growth. International Trade Week 2026, taking place from 9 to 13 November, provides an important opportunity to highlight the global reach of the UK rail sector and the role exports can play in driving future success.

Led by the Department for Business Innovation Science and Trade, International Trade Week is a nationwide campaign designed to celebrate exporting businesses and encourage organisations of all sizes to explore international opportunities. For rail, this is particularly relevant. The UK's supply chain has built a strong reputation around the world for delivering innovative technologies, specialist expertise, engineering excellence and professional services across international markets.

Many rail suppliers, particularly SMEs, possess highly specialised products and services with the potential to address challenges faced by railways worldwide. This is why Rail Forum is proud to support International Trade Week 2026. As a membership organisation representing businesses from across the rail supply chain, we work closely with members that are already exporting successfully as well as those beginning to explore international markets.

To encourage participation, Rail Forum has developed a series of ready-to-use social media templates that members can customise with their own branding and export success stories. By sharing examples

Rail Forum

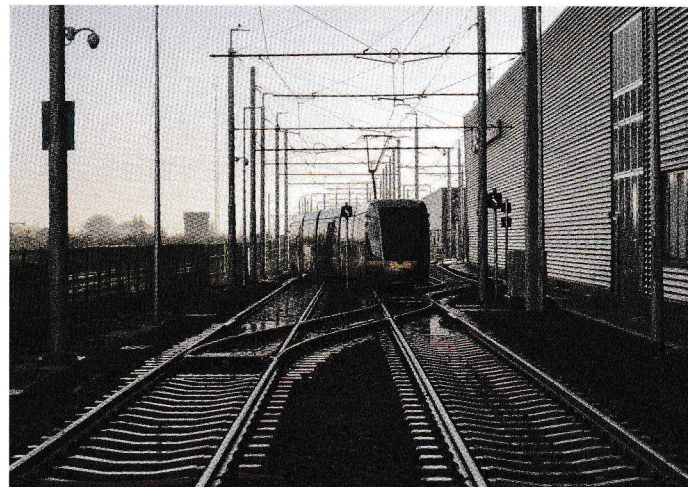
of innovation, businesses can collectively showcase the strength and diversity of the UK rail supply chain to a global audience.

To access these templates, you can visit Rail Forum's dedicated Export page: <https://www.railforum.uk/key-activities-export/>

Innovation remains one of the industry's greatest strengths and is often the factor that opens doors to new international markets. That focus on innovation will continue into 2027 through the Railway Innovation Awards, which Rail Forum is proud to be in association with. With categories spanning sustainability, customer experience, engineering, safety, diversity and inclusion, and cross-industry collaboration, the awards celebrate the ideas, technologies and partnerships shaping the future of rail.

Rail Forum recently had the opportunity to see many examples of international collaboration and innovation first-hand at InnoTrans in Berlin. With thousands of exhibitors and visitors from across the global rail industry, it was particularly encouraging to see a number of Rail Forum members showcasing innovative products, technologies and services throughout the four-day exhibition.

International Trade Week, InnoTrans and the Railway Innovation Awards highlight the world-class capabilities that continue to position the UK rail sector as a recognised leader on the international stage.



Supporting Luas electrification: Amey has won a four-year framework contract to work on Dublin's light rail system. Courtesy Amey

Amey wins Luas electrification deal

AMEY IS to deliver the design, supply, installation testing and commissioning of overhead contact system renewals on Dublin's Luas light rail system.

It has been appointed to Transport Infrastructure Ireland's Luas Overhead Contact System Works Framework – its first directly awarded contract with the organisation. Running for four years and valued at between €3 million and €5 million, the contract covers the Red and Green lines of Luas and has the potential to be extended for a further four years.

Amey will deliver the works within a live operational environment, drawing on its specialist electrification capability

and experience working on busy passenger rail systems.

Account Director Ireland Ewen Morrison said: "Ewen Morrison, Account Director Ireland at Amey, said: "The Luas is part of everyday life for people across Dublin, so being trusted to deliver overhead line works on this network is a responsibility we take seriously. This framework reflects our experience delivering complex electrification projects safely, efficiently and with minimal disruption."

"Our focus will be on keeping the Luas running reliably for passengers today while supporting the long-term resilience of the system for a growing city."

RBF opens online Christmas shop

RAILWAY BENEFIT Fund is opening its online Christmas shop early for 2026 to raise money for the charity.

This year's collection includes exclusive Christmas card designs and a specially produced 2027 rail calendar, sponsored by TES 2000.

RBF CEO Jo Kaye said: "Christmas is a time of joy for many, but

for railway families struggling to make ends meet, it can be one of the hardest times of the year. Every card and calendar bought from our shop helps us be there for colleagues when they need us most. Together, we can make this Christmas a little brighter for our Railway Family."



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