

ScotRail Press Conference

Speech for Jeff Hoogesteger

In 2012 when Abellio embarked on this journey we were under no illusion about the national significance of Scotland's rail network.

Two years later, we feel honoured that Scotland has entrusted Abellio with the crucial duty of running that network.

Historians among you will know that there is a rich heritage of commercial and cultural exchange between Scotland and the Netherlands.

As a Dutchman standing in the heart of this ancient and beautiful Scottish city this morning I feel that we are launching the next phase in that relationship.

From April 2015, Abellio will bring every ounce of its international experience to delivering for passengers the plans outlined for you this morning by the Minister.

In doing so, we will be working with many Scottish people and organisations who helped us develop our vision for the new franchise. I would like to thank them this morning for their support

I would also like to pay tribute to the staff at Transport Scotland for running a procurement process which was exemplary at every stage.

As I said, our team has been working hard on the development of our plans for over two years.

If you don't mind I would also like to take this opportunity to thank them for their dedication and unswerving commitment to creating an amazing vision for Scotland's new railway.

Our parent company, Nederlandse Spoorwegen or "NS", has over 175 years of experience of running passenger rail services.

Through NS, Abellio has developed a deep understanding of how an efficient, accessible and high quality rail network can increase the competitive edge of a nation.

Our plans for ScotRail are designed to achieve exactly that, and we thank you for giving us this opportunity.

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