

## PRESS RELEASE

17 January 2017

### **Abellio sells 40% share in Greater Anglia to Mitsui**

Japanese company identified as the best partner to support Abellio in delivering ambitious programme of improvements

Abellio UK ("Abellio") has signed an agreement to sell 40% of the Greater Anglia rail franchise to Mitsui & Co., Ltd. ("Mitsui"), pending final regulatory approvals. This fulfils Abellio's long-standing objective of finding a suitable partner to run Greater Anglia in a 60:40 joint venture.

Abellio and Mitsui have a proven track record of working together, having first entered into a joint venture to bid for the West Midlands rail franchise in 2016, along with East Japan Railway Company. Following this process, Abellio felt that Mitsui would be the best partner to help it deliver its ambitious programme to transform the Greater Anglia franchise.

Mitsui is a global conglomerate with business interests in numerous different sectors, including infrastructure, integrated transportation systems, energy, and IT and communications. The deal is notable for marking the first time a Japanese company has become a shareholder of a British train operating company.

Abellio re-won the Greater Anglia franchise in August 2016, having first operated it from February 2012. It will continue to have a majority stake in the business and be in overall control. The franchise agreement will see £1.4bn in investment over the next nine years, with the introduction of a completely new fleet and a commitment to cut average journey times by 10%.

Dominic Booth, Managing Director of Abellio said:

*"We are delighted to have reached agreement with Mitsui, fulfilling our long standing objective of running the franchise as a 60:40 joint venture. With the introduction of Mitsui's knowledge and experience, we look forward to delivering significant improvements for Greater Anglia's customers, including through the introduction of a brand new fleet."*

**Ends**

**Notes**

For further information please contact:

George Robinson at Abellio: [george.robinson@abellio.com](mailto:george.robinson@abellio.com) / 07769 880205

## About Abellio Group

Abellio is the international passenger transport subsidiary of the Dutch national railway company, Nederlandse Spoorwegen. Everyday our people provide rail, bus and tram services to 1.7m customers across the UK, Germany and in the Netherlands. In the UK we operate buses through Abellio London & Surrey, as well as ScotRail and Greater Anglia train services, and Merseyrail in a joint venture with Serco. In Germany we operate Abellio Deutschland, serving communities in North Rhine Westfalia, Saxony, Lower Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Hesse and Thuringia. In the Netherlands we operate with Qbuzz, bus services in Groningen, Drenthe and Utrecht. Our role in transport extends beyond the journey from a-to-b. With our international heritage and our policy of sharing best practice, not just amongst ourselves, but across the wider transport industry, we provide thought leadership and truly innovative ideas which make a positive contribution to the communities we serve. For more information on Abellio visit [www.abellio.com](http://www.abellio.com).

## About Mitsui

Mitsui is one of the most diversified and comprehensive trading, investment and service enterprises in the world, with 138 offices in 65 countries as of January, 2017. Utilizing our global operating locations, network and information resources, we are multilaterally pursuing business that ranges from product sales, worldwide logistics and financing, through to the development of major international infrastructure and other projects in the following fields: Iron & Steel Products, Mineral & Metal Resources, Infrastructure Projects, Integrated Transportation Systems, Chemicals, Energy, Food Resources, Food Products & Services, Consumer Services, IT & Communication, Corporate Development Business.. Mitsui is actively taking on challenges for global business innovation around the world. For more information, visit <http://www.mitsui.com>.

## About Greater Anglia

The new Greater Anglia franchise began operating on 16 October 2016. It provides intercity, commuter and rural services throughout the region including the Stansted Express service. Greater Anglia is responsible for almost 2,800 employees, operates 1,300 train services per day and serves 132 stations.