

Press statement
March 2nd 2011

TEES VALLEY UNLIMITED WELCOMES HITACHI GO AHEAD

Tees Valley Unlimited has today (Wednesday) welcomed the announcement by Government that train building is coming back to the North East.

Transport Secretary Philip Hammond confirmed Hitachi has been awarded the £4.5bn Intercity Express Programme (IEP) deal.

The announcement means the Japanese company will build a multi-million pound plant in Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, to assemble the next generation of trains.

This would create around 500 jobs directly and a further 8,000 in the supply chain – in turn benefiting Tees Valley given its strength within the manufacturing sector and close proximity to Newton Aycliffe.

Sandy Anderson, Chairman of Tees Valley Unlimited, said: “There is a long tradition of train building in the North East which is reflected in its extensive manufacturing and skills base.

“So I’m delighted that the Government has given its backing to Hitachi, which has chosen Newton Aycliffe as the location for a train assembly plant. This will have a significant impact on job creation in this area.

“Tees Valley Unlimited will be liaising with Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council and other parties to co-ordinate discussions with Hitachi to identify potential opportunities for companies within the supply chain to ensure the area gets the maximum benefits from this project.”

The IEP could bring an overall £660m boost to the North East's economy over the next 20 years, with experts concluding that every £1 invested by the Government in bringing train building back to the region would be turned into £48 in the local economy.

For more information contact Leanne English, PR Manager at Tees Valley Unlimited, on 01642 632013, 07725 602824 or email leanne.english@teesvalleyunlimited.gov.uk.

NOTE FOR EDITORS:

Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU) is a partnership between the five Tees Valley Councils, regional regeneration bodies and business leaders to drive forward the future development of the Tees Valley economy.

Further information on TVU activities can be accessed via the following
URL: <http://www.teesvalleyunlimited.gov.uk>