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- PLUS
- NEWS
- PEOPLE
- INTERNATIONAL
- NEWS
- FEATURE
- COMPANY
- FOCUS
- HEALTH & SAFETY
- EVENTS
- SUMMITS
- TRAINING
- CAREERS

HS2

page 24

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?



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Expansion at telent heralds digital revolution

As the Rail Delivery Group unveiled plans to progress the use of digital technology in the rail industry, digital communications pioneer telent is expanding its rail business to meet the challenge.

Kevin Bonanno has joined telent as business development director. Drawing on over 20 years' commercial experience in wireless, digital and fixed telecom solutions throughout the UK and Europe, Kevin will lead and develop the team to meet the unrivalled opportunities presented by the rail industry and its adoption of new technologies.

Steve Pearce has been appointed as programme director for rail. Steve has been with telent for nearly 40 years and brings a wealth of experience to the role. Steve will be responsible for the

overall delivery of all rail projects for Network Rail, train operating companies and supply chain partners. As well as ensuring the successful and safe delivery of projects, Steve will play an active role in helping develop and implement telent's forward looking Rail Strategy.

Sean Birrane has been appointed head of EHS Rail Projects. Sean is a long-serving railway safety manager, having joined the industry in 1979. He has considerable experience in managing large-scale projects including the West Coast Main Line Overhead Line Equipment (OLE) upgrade and GSM-R deployment. In Sean's new role, his focus will be on meeting health and safety obligations in the most pragmatic way.

The moves follow the appointment of Steve Dalton

as managing director of telent's rail business in autumn 2016. Says Dalton, 'telent shares the aspirations of passengers, government and industry for a world class railway. We are a committed long-term partner to the rail industry with a long-term Rail Strategy that is aligned to our key customers and industry stakeholders.'

'The increasing use of digital technology in the UK rail industry means the needs of our customers are rapidly changing. As designers, suppliers and maintainers of these new technologies, we have grown from a telecom and support integrator to a full-service data network and service provider, offering whole of life, 24/7 asset management and support.

'Over the last two years, we have significantly expanded our

capabilities in digital technology, cloud solutions and secure networking with several strategic acquisitions, including Telindus, Arqiva Secure Solutions and most recently Richardson Eyres. We have continued to forge technology partnerships with world-leading companies, such as Cisco and Juniper to further underpin telent's technology strategy and long-term delivery capabilities.

'Whilst the evolution of a digital railway will fundamentally change many rail systems, we are committed to ensuring that we continue to support our customers' legacy systems. Our business is continuing to evolve to best meet the ever-changing needs of the rail industry and these appointments mark another step forward for telent Rail.' ●

Our Lady of the Harbour



A former conductor on the Canadian Pacific Railway is heading up Network Rail Consulting's new division in Toronto.

Susanne M Manaigre, a rail operations strategist, brings a 30-year career, forged from the metals up, to Network Rail Consulting's ambitious new Canadian venture.

Manaigre joins NRC from GO Transit/Metrolinx where she was chief of operations.

As a student studying history at the University of Manitoba in the 1980s, she self-funded herself working as an onboard services assistant on Via Rail - based

in Winnipeg. After university, Manaigre spent three years with CPR. She then transferred to Canadian National - Canada's vast transcontinental rail network that runs coast to coast and from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico - working as an intermodal clerk based in Vancouver.

In 1997, she joined Transport Canada as an operations inspector based in Calgary, Alberta, a position she held for over nine years. Manaigre then headed up the vast Alyth Yard in Calgary, one of CPR's busiest. In June 2008, she joined Bombardier to manage rail regulation and safety systems.

Susanne M Manaigre joined Toronto's public transit system, GO Transit/Metrolinx, in January 2015. This regional public transport system in Southern Ontario carries in excess of 69 million passengers a year in an extensive network of train and bus services.

Network Rail Consulting continues to expand bringing the UK's wealth of railway talent and experience to a wider world. ●

New GIG for Donaghey

The British arm of Global Infrastructure Group (GIG) – Global Rail Construction Ltd. – has appointed Sean Donaghey as operations director.

A qualified engineer, Donaghey has over 30 years' experience in the rail and construction industries. A wide-ranging career has spanned telecoms, CCTV, signalling, civils and M&E.

Career highlights include the strategic planning and delivery of M&E, E&P and telecoms services across Volker Fitzpatrick Ltd's rail division and coordinating the design and development of a £30 million station roof replacement project for May Gurney Ltd.

Steve read a degree in engineering technology at the Open University and took an MBA at Leicester University.

Hertfordshire-based Global Rail Construction Ltd is a principal contractor and a leading provider of design and build services to clients in the rail and transportation sector. The company is currently involved in



Crossrail and the Great Western Electrification Project.

Says Marco Lombardelli, managing director of Global Rail Construction Ltd, 'The group is now in a strong position to apply its wealth of skills and experience to really differentiate itself within the UK and international marketplace.'

'With Global Rail Construction Ltd's full PCL, and with Sean's vast and varied capabilities, we are working towards becoming one of Network Rail's preferred rail contractors in the UK. We are already seeing the difference Sean is making, and we look forward to a great 2017.' ●