

Global Rail Construction Limited (GRCL) has opened an office in Derby to head up its new labour supply arm.

The new office will be used to meet external client demands for labour, including safety critical personnel, as well as supporting GRCL's own current and future rail projects in the Midlands and the North.

The company has assembled an experienced and committed management team to run this new labour division.

GRCL said the new business arm is well placed to support the company's work on some of the UK's biggest rail infrastructure projects.

GRCL holds a full principal contractors licence and is a leading UK provider of design and build services to clients in the rail and transportation sector. With its head office in Hertfordshire, the company undertakes projects throughout the UK; the opening of the new midlands hub, on 3 April 2017, allows project managers direct coverage of contracts across this region of the country. It is also a milestone for the company due to the city of Derby's significance to the rail industry.



The Roundhouse at Derby is the world's first and oldest surviving railway roundhouse. It was originally developed in 1839 by four rival rail companies, including North Midland Railway (NMR) for whom George Stephenson and his son Robert were engineers.

The Midland Railway became one of the country's prominent railway companies with lines throughout Derbyshire, up to Carlisle in the North (including the country's highest station at Dent) and to the south with its London terminus at spectacular St Pancras. From 1873, the Midland Railway Locomotive Works, known locally as "The Loco", became a major manufacturer of locomotives and rolling stock units. When the railways were nationalised in 1947, the Derby works became part of the BR Workshops.

GRCL's new office in Derby is a signal of its growth and success across its rail infrastructure sectors of operation, which encompass civil and structural engineering, E&P, signalling and building works – as well as its new labour supply arm.

The company has a strong track record of achievements across the country, including in the Midlands where GRCL helped deliver the East Notts Resignalling project, which was completed at the end of 2016. ●



Derby goes Global

Nottingham station rises from the ashes

East Midlands Trains staff at Nottingham acted quickly to evacuate passengers when a fire broke out at the station last month.

General manager Sarah Turner, who was boarding a train to London at the station on the morning of the blaze, praised the professionalism of her colleagues and members of the emergency services.

Staff began evacuating passengers from the station at around 6.30 on 12 January. Emergency services were quickly on the scene and, at its height, 60 firefighters were tackling the fire.

The fire started in the station's public toilets and the police investigation is ongoing.

Although there was some significant damage to the station's new southern concourse, no one was hurt and the majority of the Grade two-listed station escaped unscathed, including heritage features that were carefully restored as part of a major refurbishment programme a few years ago.

The station resumed with a near normal service just 48 hours later. A week on from the fire, IT technicians restored comms equipment damaged by the fire, including the equipment which runs the passenger information screens.

East Midlands Trains is currently planning



how it is going to deliver the main repair work.

Since the fire, staff from across the business have been volunteering to help.

Sarah said she "couldn't praise the staff enough" for their actions during what was a very challenging morning. Station staff at Nottingham carry out fire alarm tests every week and conduct fire drills on a weekly basis. The operator's emergency procedures had also just been reviewed.

"I had a follow-up meeting with the fire service and they praised our service delivery team, our front line team, for the efficiency with which they evacuated the station," said Sarah.

She added: "It is quite an emotional thing for them but how they've responded is fantastic... All of our team have really pulled together."

As a thankyou, East Midlands Trains is now looking at naming one of its trains in recognition of Nottingham's emergency services. ●

