

CASE STUDY

Car Parks and Railway Platforms Frameworks

LOCATION: Nationwide, Ireland
CLIENT: Irish Rail



Introduction

Having commenced their first framework for Irish Rail back in 2006, Global Rail Services are now working on their third consecutive four-year railway agreement for both the construction of station car parks and platforms.

As one of eight current preferred contractors, Global Rail Services have maintained high levels of customer satisfaction for their performance, consistently delivering a high quality service and as a result have been awarded works in excess of €15m to date.

Civil Engineering is at the core of Global Rail Services' offering. The company have constructed new station car park & Platforms facilities and built and upgraded many station new platforms to both increase capacity, and to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), across mainline and metropolitan stations throughout Ireland.

These works also encompass electrical, mechanical, CCTV and telecommunications installations and upgrades, where Global Rail Services are able to call upon their in house M&E department to provide the necessary engineering and delivery support.

It is this turnkey solution that has enabled Global Rail Services to provide comprehensive project solutions - providing Irish Rail with contract surety.

The works formed a fundamental part of the Irish Rail's programme to improve passenger experience and increase capacity, at both mainline and metropolitan railway stations throughout Ireland.

The scope for the car parks involved the complexities of working adjacent to a live railway station and required professional community engagement to ensure that patrons and stakeholders were fully informed before and during the works.

The platform works involved close liaison with Irish Rail's railway systems signalling team and also their track infrastructure engineers. Although, Global Rail Services undertook any associated track modifications as part of another framework with Irish Rail for Permanent Way.

The Deliverables

Global Rail Services provided a fully co-ordinated design and construct service for car parks and platforms, including civil and structural and electrical and mechanical engineering at each site. They delivered a fully managed program of works, whilst effectively co-ordinating with station staff and other stakeholders to achieve compliance with all relevant heritage, railway, local authority, roads and street works, safety and environmental standards, based of the following scope of activities:

- ① Full risk mitigation assessment including geotechnical testing of the site prior to work commencement
- ① Full design co-ordination
- ① Setting out and site engineering
- ① Demolition and site clearance
- ① Traffic Management
- ① Drainage works
- ① Services and utilities diversions
- ① Temporary works
- ① Earthworks, foundation, in-situ and pre-cast concrete works
- ① Embankment/cutting works including widening, strengthening and repairs
- ① Platform Alterations
- ① Heritage structure repair and re-build
- ① Mechanical and Electrical installation including CCTV, PA and ticket machines
- ① Surfacing works, including line marking
- ① Hard, soft landscaping, new signage and furniture
- ① Structural and non-structural modifications to buildings and structures
- ① Provision of full as-built documentation

Challenges and Solutions

By appointing a Global Rail Services - a multi-disciplinary project management contractor - as the single point of contact, Irish Rail were provided with the confidence of a contracting organisation that would fully manage the project, the trade interfaces and the complexities of working in a live rail situation.

Global Rail Services have a multi-disciplinary workforce across all deliverables and delivered works at every site in-house, with the exception of the surfacing, which was procured through a long-term supply-chain partnership. This provided Irish Rail with a one-stop solution for each and every contract.

There were also daily challenges with each location in respect of interfaces with road users, visitors and patrons. GRSL carefully planned each project to ensure that their works had minimal impact. They also co-ordinated with Irish Rail, regularly consulting and managing expectations of local residents and other stakeholders with care, keeping all relevant parties informed in advance and during the works.

It is not uncommon to have buildings and structures of historical importance at many of Ireland's railway stations. Global Rail Services have vast experience dealing with the sensitivities of working on structures of this type. Working to heritage standards and in close conjunction with the conservation architect, the company carefully photographed, dismantled and re-build each individual structure with great skill and care.

Global Rail Services also undertook a series of risk mitigation assessments and geotechnical assessments at the site prior to works commencement. In consultation with Irish Rail, a bespoke methodology for each project was prepared including a detailed implementation program.

Global Rail Services held co-ordinated weekly site meetings, to monitor and sign-off each element of works, which ensured that works were progressed to the satisfaction of the client and their conservation team.

To ensure that high standards were maintained, Global Rail Services undertook regular audits of their systems, documents and site housekeeping to maintain the health, safety and well-being of all those coming into contact with the project.

The Benefits

The company have a multi-disciplinary in-house workforce across all trades and also have experience in civil and structural engineering and mechanical and electrical engineering too, which provided a one-stop solution for the project.

As an organisation Global Rail Services are used to working in a live environment. By aligning closely with the communities in which they serve, they provided a considerate, safe and secure environment for all staff, visitors, patrons and stakeholders.

Having their roots in railway engineering, also aided access planning and logistics with the station staff and also Irish Rail's signalling and track engineering departments when modifying the platforms and stations.