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Press release

Unipart Rail Secures Wheelset Supply

The global problems with wheelset supply have been causing problems for the UK market. Unipart Rail announces a major contract to secure supply in the UK.

Unipart Rail is pleased to announce that Heads of Terms have been agreed with Lucchini UK Ltd for the long term supply of wheelset services and components for the UK Rail industry.

Unipart Rail carried out a review of the supply base in order to determine the best supply options in terms of Quality, Cost and Delivery. This new contract has been agreed to improve substantially the supply of wheelsets.

From the end of the 2007, a range of wheelsets will be overhauled by Lucchini UK Ltd in their Manchester plant thus enabling Unipart Rail to ensure the continued supply to the UK rail industry. Lucchini will also be manufacturing wheelpans and axles to support the process.

Chris Fawdry, Director of Lucchini UK said: "The partnership with Unipart Rail fits in superbly with our own company strategy, in that it integrates our availability of wheelpans and axles and our wheelset overhaul capability with Unipart Rail's vehicle and bogie overhaul business. It is an ideal long term solution for operators and leasing companies alike to what has been an expensive and very disruptive problem".

This new arrangement enables Unipart Rail to offer its Customers a solution to the ongoing issue of wheelset supply. The business synergies and mutual benefits of the alliance aim to make the Unipart Rail route to market the most robust and secure available in the UK.

Word count 255

Unipart Rail is the UK's leading Logistics, Supply Chain Management and Lean Consultancy Practitioner to the rail industry. Formerly known as Railpart and National Railway Supplies (NRS), Unipart Rail is part of the Unipart Group and operates at sites in London, Doncaster, Crewe, York, Southport and Middlesbrough.

Dorman, the LED signalling innovators, and Dorman Varitext, manufacturers of Variable Messaging and Passenger Information Systems are also part of Unipart Rail.

With nearly 800 employees, Unipart Rail is a major partner to the rail industry and has extensive expertise in Infrastructure and Traction & Rolling Stock systems and products.

Unipart Group

Unipart Rail is part of Unipart Group, one of Europe's leading independent logistics companies that employs more than 9,000 worldwide and has an annual turnover of more than £1.1billion.

As well as being the UK's largest independent supplier of car and truck parts, bodyshop parts and workshop consumables through its Unipart Automotive division, Unipart Group is a major force in logistics for blue-chip customers.

Lucchini

Lucchini UK Ltd is part of Lucchini Sidermeccanica (LS) of Lovere Italy, where the Company's steel plant is located.

LS has an annual turnover of €350M and employs 1000 staff in 4 countries: Italy, UK, Sweden and Poland. The Lovere plant has over 150 years of experience in supplying European heavy industry including the rail sector.

With a history approaching 100 years L UK from its Manchester base is unique in the UK in offering a full range of products and services relating to railway wheel sets: component supply of wheels and axles, assembly and repair of wheel sets, repair of gear boxes, overhaul of bearings and NDT at depot. The Manchester Plant can produce 35,000 wheels and 7,500 wheel sets per annum.

For more information see www.lucchini.it

For further information contact:

Dave Tilmouth
Marketing Services Manager
dave.tilmouth@natrail.com
T: 01270 847620
M: 07740 335899