



STAFFORDSHIRE  
ALLIANCE

## Off-site Factory for Overhead Line

### The Challenge

**Network Rail's Stafford Area Improvements Programme seeks to improve capacity, reliability and performance on the busy West Coast main line through three key projects: linespeed improvements between Crewe and Norton Bridge (now complete); resignalling Stafford station and the surrounding area; constructing six miles of new railway including a rail flyover at Norton Bridge.**

**With the work being delivered by the Staffordshire Alliance – a partnership of Network Rail, Laing O'Rourke, VolkerRail and Atkins – the alliance asked Unipart Rail to help it develop a solution to the challenge of fabricating and storing the complex overhead line (OLE) equipment needed for the job.**

### The Solution

The answer came courtesy of Unipart Rail's Overhead Line Business Manager, Kelly Pepper, who, working alongside Staffordshire Alliance's OLE and track materials manager Neil Laszkowicz developed a simple 'one stop shop' solution, where the necessary equipment is stored and fabricated at the same location, before being transported to site ready for fitment.

This approach has resulted in the creation of a dedicated fabrication facility at Unipart's Gresty Road site in Crewe. The new fabrication plant is co-located with Unipart's existing supply chain management operations store and provides storage for all of the necessary components required by the alliance. Not only does this mean 24 hour/7 day a week security, but also enables the alliance instant access to its inventory via Unipart's 'remote warehouse' solution, which can be operated from any tablet/android device. Other key benefits include:

- Reduction in need to 'double handle and store' materials, both in a warehouse and on site, prior to fabrication
- Reduced risk of damage to materials stored in one location and sited directly next to the fabrication facility
- Improved productivity and quality control through close liaison between material stocking and fabrication

# The Service



Manufacturing  
Services

A profitable enterprise not only demands the effective ongoing replacement of current or legacy railway equipment, it also relies on high quality and reliable products and components. Products for the future.

Unipart Rail Service Centres research, develop and manufacture an unrivalled range of replacement, new and forward thinking railway equipment. High quality, high performance equipment designed to help deliver and sustain the very best rail operations.

Electronic, mechanical and optical innovation, as well as reverse engineering - from concept design to finished manufactured products.

Insight driven, dedicated rail industry manufacturing that helps you refresh and redefine success



Supply Chain  
Services

They say your supply chain is only as strong as its weakest link. They're right. But it's not just brute strength that delivers ultimate performance.

Innovation and flexibility are essential too - the creativity to meet fresh challenges and the agility to integrate new solutions.

At Unipart Rail we understand this. And for more than 20 years we've partnered numerous international clients to deliver exceptionally high levels of material availability, bespoke designed solutions and a highly valued service. Supporting up to 99% parts availability levels.

The Rail Industry is inherently complex. The benefit of partnering Unipart Rail is simple. A high performance supply chain. Guaranteed.



## The Result

Neil Laszkowicz said: "This is the first time this approach has been used in the rail industry for this type of work and means a leaner, more efficient operation and removes issues such as the double handling and storing of materials, with everything in one location. This also means improved security, productivity and quality control through the co-location of storage and fabrication."

In 2014 we supplied circa 3500 OLE assemblies and circa 250 masts into the project and we're looking forward to supplying the rest of the equipment over the next three years

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