21 January 2015

Railway Vehicle Engineering Ltd gets RISAS certification

Derby-based rolling stock specialists, Railway Vehicle Engineering Limited (RVEL), have secured RISAS certification, underpinning the company’s commitment to delivering maintenance and overhaul services to the highest standard.

The RISAS certificate proves RVEL’s engineering capabilities for running gear, electrical traction equipment and transmissions at their Derby workshops, and came into effect from 10 November 2014. Recent customers include Direct Rail Services, East Midlands Trains, Eurostar, First Great Western, Hitachi, Network Rail and Porterbrook.

In 2013-14, the mainline railway saw nearly 1.6 billion passenger journeys made and over 115 million tonnes of freight carried, making for a highly intensive and popular railway, requiring fault-free rolling stock that people can rely on to be safe and get to destinations on time.

RISAS represents the suitably high level of assurance of suppliers in keeping with the safety criticality of rolling stock maintenance. The scheme relies on suppliers and customers both having a lucid appreciation of the risks, and a proven capability to manage them. A RISAS certificate means that the whole rail system can assume a high level of assurance in RVEL’s processes, based on one universally accepted, rigorous assessment.

Andy Lynch, Managing Director at RVEL said: ‘We are delighted to have been awarded RISAS accreditation. This will allow RVEL to show existing and potential customers that our workforce can deliver to exacting quality and safety standards. It also sets the bar for standards that we will continue to deliver against as we seek to grow our business.’
The assessment was undertaken by Railway Approvals Ltd as a Rail Industry Supplier Approval Body (RISAB), accredited by RSSB. Such assessments pose ambitious challenges to candidates like RVEL, to be able to demonstrate excellence throughout.

Steven Smith, Director of Railway Approvals added: ‘Our assessment of RVEL revealed a hard-working, resilient and high-performing operation which customers can be confident in. We conducted a comprehensive examination of RVEL’s shop-floor and board-room operation, so we know the business is correctly applying its processes.’

Chairman of the RISAS Board, Tim Dugher said: ‘This is tremendous news for RVEL, the railway community in Derby, and the wider industry. RISAS is designed by the industry, for the industry, and endorsed by the regulator, and is the only scheme designed to provide assurance at this level for the critical nature of rolling stock overhaul. RVEL has clearly made that grade.’

RISAS is managed through rail industry body RSSB, supported by knowledge and experience of rolling stock standards, competence and supplier assurance. For further information, go to: www.risas.co.uk

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Photographs of the certificate presentation at Derby are available. For further information, please contact: the RSSB press office, on 020 3142 5332 / 5331 / 5653 or email pressoffice@rssb.co.uk or visit the website www.rssb.co.uk

Notes to editors:

1. **About RVEL**

   RVEL is based in Derby at the heart of the UK rail industry.

   RVEL maintains and overhauls infrastructure, freight and passenger vehicles, allowing the railway to extend the life of existing assets, which helps the industry defer capital expenditure on new rolling stock.

   RVEL currently employs about 100 full time staff and contractors. The company is a subsidiary of Loram Maintenance of Way; an international railway equipment manufacturer and services provider.
2. About Railway Approvals Ltd

Railway Approvals Limited a company dedicated to meeting all your certification requirements for rail vehicles. We use Engineers with comprehensive experience in both Passenger and Freight vehicles to ensure compliance with mandatory requirements; simply, efficiently to obtain the required certification.

Railway Approvals is approved to certify rail vehicles as a UK Vehicle Acceptance Body, a European Notified body and against UIC regulations. We conduct RISAS Supplier Approval; EN45011 assessments for rolling stock components and sub-systems, and ROGS Competent Person work.

Railway Approvals is accredited to approve rolling stock and freight wagons in France as an EOQA.

Railway Approvals is committed to Impartiality and Independence. The Railway Approvals Supervisory Board meet at our Derby Office where the Independent members review our performance.

3. About RISAS

The Railway Industry Supplier Approval Scheme (RISAS) is the GB main line rail industry’s ‘not-for-profit’ scheme for the assessment and certification of suppliers of critical products and services. RISAS supports Network Rail, the passenger and freight train operators and other organisations that purchase critical products and services in connection with GB Railways (collectively the ‘clients’) in their management of supply chain and asset maintenance risk. It provides an independent, rigorous assessment of a supplier’s capability to consistently provide critical products and services in accordance with customer requirements. RISAS ‘adds value’ to both the clients and the suppliers by offering:

- A single, universally recognised assessment and certificate which reduces/eliminates the need for audits by other third party schemes or individual client companies in GB.
- Clear and transparent supplier assessments by competent independent bodies which support the operation of a client’s safety management system in controlling risk.
- Challenging assessments which support suppliers in meeting client requirements and demonstrating excellence.
- Formalised mechanism for controlled feedback and resolution of customer product and service issues.
- A robust system for the assessment and certification of rolling stock maintenance recognised by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) which can also efficiently meet the requirements of the European Union Safety Directive.

RISAS is managed by RSSB (as both the scheme manager and the accreditation agency), on behalf of the rail industry, represented by the RISAS Board. For more info: www.risas.co.uk

4. About RSSB

The railway is a complex system with multiple interfaces delivered by many different organisations. At RSSB, we bring these different organisations together to make collective decisions.

Through research, the understanding of risk, and analysis, we help the rail industry in the areas of safety, standards, knowledge and innovation. We support the railway too across a wide range of cross-industry topics requiring our knowledge and independence. And we provide a constant point of reference in a changing environment.
Our work involves close collaboration, but as technical experts, we’re also able to step back and provide an informed view. And because we can see both the big picture and the detail, we’re able to furnish the industry with the information and tools it needs to continuously improve.

We’re an expert body with a wide compass of knowledge, skills and experience. We’re owned by the industry but are non-profit-making and independent of any commercial interests. We span the whole system, including in our membership infrastructure companies, train and freight operators, rolling stock owners and suppliers to the industry.

Together we provide collective wisdom for a better railway.

RSSB manages RISAS, providing the agency for accrediting the approval bodies which then assess companies going for RISAS certification. RSSB also provides the scheme management, which includes looking after the governance of RISAS, administration of its Board and facilitating its development of its Business Plan, reporting back into the RSSB Board, supporting stakeholder engagement with users of the scheme, and its marketing, promotion and communication – including the RISAS website.

www.rssb.co.uk