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Eversholt Rail gets RISAS certification

One of Britain's leading train fleet owners and asset managers has recently achieved an important accolade in the procurement of maintenance and overhaul processes.

Eversholt Rail, which owns and manages a large portfolio of 23 separate fleets, 3,495 passenger vehicles, 31 passenger locomotives, 83 freight locomotives and 981 freight wagons, has become the second major rolling stock company (ROSCO), to achieve RISAS (Railway Industry Supplier Approval Scheme) certification.

The RISAS certificate means Eversholt Rail has proven its capabilities at the highest level, in buying, managing and overseeing maintenance of the most critical aspects of rolling stock crucial to safety, reliability and performance.

This means that customers like passenger and freight train operating companies can assume a high level of assurance based on one universally accepted, rigorous assessment in RISAS, avoiding the duplication and unnecessary cost of multiple generic audits. RISAS is assessing the supplier's ability to understand and manage the risks that it brings to the operational railway.

The assessment was undertaken by SGS CORREL Rail as a Rail Industry Supplier Approval Body (RISAB), accredited by RSSB. Such assessments pose ambitious challenges to candidates like Eversholt Rail, to be able to demonstrate excellence across their entire spectrum of activities from board room to shop floor.

This contributes to the safety management system (SMS) in controlling risk, competence management and organisational learning as well as meeting the



requirements of UK and EU legislation. Unlike a generic questionnaire or tick-sheet, the RISAS assessment gets under the skin of the company and gets hard proof that its performance meets the railway's requirements.

The move cements the ongoing commitment throughout the rail industry supply chain to embed RISAS as the 'standard' for assuring the supply of critical products and services associated with rolling stock maintenance.

Eversholt Rail's RISAS certificate came into effect on 13 October 2011 and was formally presented to Eversholt's Chief Executive Officer Mary Kenny by SGS CORREL Rail's Gary Winstanley, Chair of the RISAS Board Ruud Haket, and RSSB's Director of National Programmes John Abbott, at Eversholt Rail's offices in London.

Mary commented: 'With our current market share of approximately one third of the UK passenger rolling stock market, we saw RISAS as a very important input to our business and the future of rail industry supplier assurance. We hope this will inspire suppliers along the chain.'

Barry Cullinane, who led the SGS CORREL Rail RISAS team during Eversholt Rail's assessment, added: 'Eversholt Rail has demonstrated that it has the courage, ambition and proven capability to deliver to the RISAS 'standard'. It shows conviction in the scheme and that, as a ROSCO, they walk-the-talk when it comes to setting similar high standards for their own suppliers to achieve.'

RSSB's John Abbott said: 'Passengers and freight using the 21st century railway rely on well-maintained, reliable, safe, modern rolling stock. RISAS is designed to support this and RSSB provides the rail industry with the framework for RISAS to work. There is now more appetite than ever to take advantage of a scheme which provides a modern, risk-based approach to supplier assurance, while at the same time, cutting out the cost of duplication.'



RISAS is facilitated by RSSB combining expertise in administration of national programmes with knowledge and experience of rolling stock standards and competence. For further information, go to:

http://www.rssb.co.uk/national_programmes/risas.asp

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For further information and photographs of the signing, please contact the RSSB press office, on 020 3142 5332 or 5331 or email pressoffice@rssb.co.uk or visit the website on www.rssb.co.uk

Notes to editors:

1. About Eversholt Rail Group

Eversholt Rail Group is wholly owned by Eversholt Investment Group and comprises three holding companies: European Rail Finance Holdings Limited, Eversholt Rail Holdings (UK) Limited and Eversholt Finance Holdings Limited. They in turn have a further seven subsidiary companies: Eversholt Depot Finance (UK) Limited, Eversholt Rail (UK) Limited, Eversholt Rail (380) Limited, Eversholt Rail (365) Limited, European Rail Finance Limited ("ERFL"), European Rail Finance (GB) Limited, and Eversholt Funding plc.

2. About Eversholt Investment Group

Eversholt Investment Group is a consortium consisting of investment funds managed by 3i Infrastructure plc, a Jersey-incorporated, closed-ended investment company, Morgan Stanley Infrastructure Partners a leading infrastructure investment platform and STAR Capital Partners an independent investment fund manager.

3. About SGS CORREL Rail

As part of the SGS Group, SGS CORREL Rail is a leading RISAB and independent certification body offering verification and validation services to the UK, European and Global railway rolling stock industry. SGS is the global leader and innovator in inspection, verification, testing and certification services. Founded in 1878, SGS is recognised as the global benchmark in quality and integrity. With over 67,000 employees, SGS operates a network of over 1,000 offices and laboratories around the world.

4. 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.

5. About RSSB

RSSB builds industry-wide consensus and facilitates the resolution of difficult cross-industry issues. It provides knowledge, analysis, a substantial level of technical expertise and powerful information and risk management tools. This delivers a unique mix to the industry across a whole range of subject areas – with the aim of:

- Driving out unnecessary cost
- Improving business performance
- Where reasonably practicable, continuously improving the level of safety in the rail industry