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High-speed trains benefit after huge £27m makeover

By Gerry Warren
 gwarren@thekmgroupp.co.uk

A staggering £27 million has been spent improving Kent's high-speed trains, which are now back in service following the refresh project.

Upgrades have seen new seats, carpet, lighting and USB charge points installed on Southeastern's 29-strong fleet of 'Javelins'.

They are now back in service, marking the end of phase one of the scheme.

Phase two, now underway, will see the installation of the latest passenger information system across all 174 carriages.

The new onboard media screens will provide real-time updates and travel information.

A new CCTV system is also being installed throughout each train that can be accessed remotely for improved customer safety and comfort.



Kent's high-speed trains have been given a £27 million refresh

It also provides better visual quality for drivers when entering and departing stations.

To complement the interior improvements each train is getting a fresh, newly designed exterior livery.

Southeastern's engineering and major programmes director, Mark Johnson, says the company is committed to delivering better journeys for customers and the refurbishment

of its flagship high-speed fleet is a vital part of the programme.

"I'm really pleased that we have successfully completed the first interior refresh phase of this project, but there is still more to come," he says.

"We're adding a new passenger information system in all 174 carriages, which will give the most up-to-date travel advice for their journeys, as well as enhanced CCTV for customer safety and comfort.

"To complement all the great work on the inside of the trains, we're also wrapping the exterior in a sleek, newly designed livery."

Southeastern's high-speed service started in December 2009.

The trains travel at 140mph and connect London St Pancras International with Ashford, East Kent, and Medway.

The £27 million upgrade programme has been delivered in partnership with Eversholt Rail and Hitachi Rail.