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UK Rail Academy brings in record number of apprentices

The National Training Academy for Rail (NTAR), in partnership with Siemens UK, has welcomed its biggest ever cohort of apprentices, with 71 enrolling at the Academy this academic year. The latest intake demonstrates the commitment of both NTAR and key rail industry businesses to collaborating in an effort towards attracting top talent to the sector and addressing future skills shortages.

New learners will work across different rail businesses as part of a wider training network, with many joining the Rail Systems, Rail Automation, Rail Electrification and Intelligent Transportation businesses within the Mobility Division of Siemens UK.

Apprentices from Siemens UK, Hitachi Rail Europe, Bombardier Transportation, South Eastern, South Western Railway, London Midland, East Midlands Trains, Ricardo Rail and Northern Railway have already come together to share their first days in the industry and complete introduction and team-building activities at the award-winning NTAR site in Northampton.

The NTAR apprenticeship programmes are aligned with the Rail Engineering 'Trailblazer' Standards, which aim to provide apprentices with technical, professional and occupational competence in rail engineering. The Standards were developed by industry employers, including Transport for London, Network Rail and Siemens UK, to ensure apprentices leave with the behaviours, knowledge, skills that they need for a successful career in the industry.

At level 3, the apprenticeship covers the fundamentals of engineering and the rail industry, as well as specialist technical and non-technical subjects such as passenger comfort, traction systems, and project management. Apprentices will receive first-rate training and real-world experience as they develop technical, occupational, and professional competence ahead of the completion of an End Point Assessment.

Applications for the 2018 apprenticeship scheme will open in December this year.

Daniel Walker, Head of Apprenticeship Delivery, National Training Academy for Rail, said:

"We are delighted to have had a record breaking start to this year's apprenticeship programmes here at the National Training Academy for Rail. This intake is our largest yet, and with such an array of dedicated and committed employers and partners working in collaboration to support them, I'm expecting great things!"

-Ends-

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About Siemens

Siemens AG (Berlin and Munich) is a global technology powerhouse that has stood for engineering excellence, innovation, quality, reliability and internationality for more than 165 years. The company is active in more than 200 countries, focusing on the areas of electrification, automation and digitalization. One of the world's largest producers of energy-efficient, resource-saving technologies, Siemens is a leading supplier of efficient power generation and power transmission solutions and a pioneer in infrastructure solutions as well as automation, drive and software solutions for industry. The company is also a leading provider of medical imaging equipment – such as computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging systems – and a leader in laboratory diagnostics as well as clinical IT. In fiscal 2016, which ended on September 30, 2016, Siemens generated revenue of €79.6 billion and net income of €5.6 billion. At the end of September 2016, the company had around 351,000 employees worldwide. Further information is available on the Internet at www.siemens.com.