

25th October 2021

UR Group supports UK's first Hydrogen-powered train debut at COP26

URGROUP is one of almost 30 UK based businesses that have worked together to deliver Britain's first hydrogen-powered train which will be showcased by Porterbrook, in partnership with Network Rail, at November's UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow.

Porterbrook has invested £7m in the HydroFLEX, which will demonstrate how green-hydrogen and innovative-engineering can accelerate delivery of environmental benefits to passengers and the communities the railway serves.

The build and delivery of HydroFLEX has been supported by the University of Birmingham and a range of businesses, many new to rail, which has successfully created the UK's first hydrogen-rail supply chain.

URGROUP has been proud to work with Porterbrook as part of the supply chain team that has delivered HydroFLEX within less than a year.

As part of the project, URGROUP supplied the Digital Ethernet Backbone for the train. This includes, pre-assembled integrated digital assemblies, network configuration software development and On-site support services. URGROUP collaborated with other suppliers adopting a "get the job" done approach in meeting Porterbrook's delivery requirements.

This cross-industry collaboration will see the ground-breaking HydroFLEX make its first passenger journeys at COP26, to showcase the possibility of leading British green technology on the world stage.

The HydroFLEX train at COP26 includes an 'on-board boardroom', giving invited special guests the chance to use the train to support the globally significant discussions that will take place in and around the COP.

URGROUP provided the high capacity, high bandwidth digital ethernet backbone which enables both passenger experience systems and critical engine control systems to be securely installed on the train.

[Gary Lock, Sales Director] said:

"As Porterbrook's Ethernet Partner of choice, we thank Porterbrook for giving us the opportunity to supply our reliable, high performance and secure digital backbone technology on yet another of the FLEX family of trains."

Mary Grant, CEO of Porterbrook, said:

"We are incredibly proud to work alongside some truly great British businesses, whose skills and expertise have helped us take HydroFLEX to COP26. This reflects a high level of collaboration across the private sector which in turn has been supported by our Network Rail and University of Birmingham partners. Seeing HydroFLEX in action in Glasgow will be a true milestone moment as we accelerate the rail industry's journey towards Net Zero."

PR enquiries can be directed to:

Gary Lock, Sales Director garyllock@ur-group.com or 07917 466359

Porterbrook Leasing

Rupert Brennan Brown, Director of Stakeholder Engagement
rupert@porterbrook.co.uk or +44 (0)7973 950 923

About Porterbrook

- Porterbrook owns almost a quarter of the national passenger rail fleet and currently has around 4,000 vehicles on lease or on order. To date, Porterbrook has invested £3bn in new passenger and freight vehicles and are actively looking to invest a further £1bn in UK rail in the coming years.
- Porterbrook has an established reputation for delivering new technologies, such as battery, hybrid and hydrogen powered trains. These innovations support the government's commitment to Net Zero by 2050 ambitions, improve air quality, reduce emissions, and enhance network resilience.
- In 2020 Porterbrook introduced HydroFLEX, the UK's first hydrogen-powered train, in partnership with the University of Birmingham. A fully productionised version of this innovative train will be showcased at Glasgow in November during COP26.
- In collaboration with industry partners, Porterbrook also project manage the delivery of regular upgrades to their rolling stock fleets. Each year Porterbrook invest over £150m in our existing assets, supporting nearly 100 UK-based companies and supporting c.7,000 jobs.

About HydroFLEX

- HydroFLEX is the world's first train retrofitted to operate under hydrogen power and the first hydrogen-powered train on Britain's railway. It is capable of drawing power from overhead wires and where these don't exist, operating in self-powered mode using hydrogen, fuel cells and batteries.
- HydroFLEX is the result of a ground-breaking collaboration between Porterbrook and the University of Birmingham.
- HydroFLEX represents a £7m private sector investment by Porterbrook in a zero-emission alternative to diesel powered trains.
- By retaining the capability of using overhead wires as a power source, HydroFLEX can extend the electrified railway to non-electrified routes but without the need for costly and disruptive infrastructure upgrades.



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