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RISAS makes Angel Trains procurement pioneer

Angel Trains has become the first supplier to achieve Railway Industry Supplier Approval Scheme (RISAS) certification under the procurement groups for maintenance and overhaul processes.

RISAS is a robust system for the assessment and certification of rolling stock maintenance, collaboratively developed by GB mainline rail companies through RSSB, and recognised by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) and Department for Transport (DfT). RISAS adds value for both clients and suppliers by offering an independent, universally recognised and rigorous assessment of a company's capability, so eliminating the duplication of other audits. This challenges the suppliers to demonstrate excellence across their entire spectrum of activities, and supports the client's safety management system (SMS) in controlling risk and meeting the requirements of UK and EU legislation. In the procurement category, other ROSCOs are expected to follow suit in becoming RISAS-certified.

The move comes at a time when interest in RISAS is growing throughout the industry, and in response, RISAS has agreed a specific business plan for 2009-14. The plan will accelerate the application of the scheme throughout the industry and support across-the-board time and cost savings.

The plan is based around a mission to ensure that RISAS is recognised by all parts of the rail industry as 'integral to the GB rail sector risk management regime and providing robust assurance to procurers of critical products, thus delivering effective risk control in an efficient manner'. The planned actions include:

- Further development of cross-industry decisions to use RISAS as part of train operating companies' specifications for maintenance and overhaul of safety critical products and services for rolling stock.
- Improvements to the scheme itself, especially strengthening the feedback arrangements and improving efficiencies.
- Continued expansion of the scheme, within GB mainline railways as dictated by client requirements.

- Investigation of the potential benefits of extending the scheme to operations outside Network Rail-managed infrastructure, including light rail, metro and heritage rail.

Tim Dugher, Chief Operations Officer at Angel Trains, commented:

‘A range of suppliers have already become certified under RISAS, and more are in the pipeline. The customer base in the rail industry is asserting more formal recognition of the scheme as a means of assuring supply of critical products and services. This is endorsed by our certification – it shows we take seriously the principles behind the scheme and we’re not prepared to demand levels of quality we can’t stand by ourselves as a ROSCO.’

Angel Trains’ certification was approved by a RISAB (Rail Industry Supplier Approval Body) RIQC. Managing Director Ken Mee said:

‘Angel Trains Limited have successfully demonstrated an integrated system for controlling all activities associated with the Procurement of Maintenance and Repair. RIQC’s approach to the RISAS assessment was to work in partnership with the Angel team to deliver a cost effective and value added assessment.’

John Abbott, RSSB Director of National Programmes, is overseeing the evolution and delivery of the plan, alongside the RISAS Board. John commented:

‘The new plan demonstrates a desire to pursue RISAS at a more compelling pace, and for the supply chain, from supplier to train operating company, the opportunity to reinvest is highly attractive – particularly in the current economic climate. The new RISAS business plan reflects this vision and will see the industry take bold steps in the years ahead.’

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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Photographs of the presentation to Angel Trains are available.

For further information please contact the RSSB press office on 020 3142 5330/1/2, email pressoffice@rssb.co.uk .

Editors' Notes

1. The RISAS Business Plan 2009-14 can be downloaded from the RISAS website at:
http://www.risas.co.uk/RISAS/RISAS_Marketing/RISAS%20Business%20Plan%202006%2008%2009%20_public_.pdf.

There is also a link to it from the front page of the website: www.risas.co.uk

2. 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 organisation 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) and Department for Transport which can also efficiently meet the requirements of the European Union Safety Directive.
3. Development and operation of RISAS is overseen by a formally constituted governance Board drawn from across the whole GB rail industry. This board is authorised by the Board of RSSB. Day to day support, operation and administration is undertaken by RSSB under the direction of the RISAS Board.
4. RISAS should be used by all GB authorised SMS holders including Network Rail and all suppliers of critical products and services including rolling stock and infrastructure asset maintenance. It aims to deliver:
 - A rigorous and robust assessment of the industry's most critical suppliers -



providing clear and transparent supplier assessments by competent independent bodies which support the operation of a client's safety management system in controlling risk.

- A reliable and trusted tool for clients to use as part of their SMS so they can demonstrate that regulatory and legislative safety requirements are being met.
 - Cost reductions for GB rail by reducing the number of client and supplier audits of products and services in the whole rail industry supply chain.
 - A system approach which specifically follows up and responds to supplier and product quality issues leading to sustained improvement in the quality of products and services in the whole rail industry supply chain.
 - Organisational learning that will lead to cultural changes within the rail industry.
5. RSSB builds industry-wide consensus and facilitates the resolution of difficult cross-industry issues. We provide knowledge, analysis, a substantial level of technical expertise, powerful information and risk management tools. This delivers a unique mix to the industry across a whole range of subject areas.