

**Hitachi awarded contract extension to maintain Scotland's best performing fleet**

- Class 385 maintenance contract ensures that Hitachi continues to be a strategic partner in Scotland's Railway.
- Scotland's best performing fleet has supported growth in Scottish customer demand.
- The 100% electric Class 385 has reduced carbon emissions on the mainline between Glasgow and Edinburgh by 82 per cent each year.



**London, April 10, 2025:** ScotRail has awarded Hitachi a seven-year contract extension to maintain the 100% electric commuter fleet (Class 385).

The contract extension includes both heavy and light maintenance of the Class 385 fleet, and will see an improved service quality regime to keep trains operating at peak performance for longer. This will result in more electric trains available for service, meaning more customers will benefit from quieter, greener more comfortable journeys on modern trains.

The contract will also ensure continued investment in infrastructure, people, and digital solutions, with the potential integration of Hitachi's digital asset monitoring platform - [HMAX](#) - into the fleet.

Hitachi has a strong collaborative relationship with ScotRail, delivering high quality maintenance services. The partnership has resulted in ScotRail's 'Express' fleet consistently being one of the most reliable and best-performing in the UK, and has supported growth in customer demand.

The ScotRail Express fleet is currently 4.5 times more reliable than the UK industry average, making it the most reliable fleet with over 50 units. During 2024/25, more than 7.5 million customer journeys have been made on class 385 trains between Edinburgh and Glasgow – an increase of five per cent on 2023/24. Since the Class 385s introduction in 2019, the train operator has seen passenger journeys increase on this route by 2%.

Hitachi has made significant investments in Scotland's Railway in recent years, including a £30 million upgrade of the UK's oldest depot in Craighentenny, Edinburgh which involved upskilling the workforce to maintain modern, digitally integrated trains.

Being 100% electric, the Class 385 is already playing a major role reducing CO2 emissions on Scotland's Railway. ScotRail estimates that the Class 385s have reduced carbon emissions on the mainline between Glasgow and Edinburgh by 82 per cent each year, or 25,208,20 kgCO2e, compared to the diesel trains they replaced.

**Magnus Conn, ScotRail Engineering Director**, said: *"We are delighted to strengthen our successful partnership with Hitachi through this extended maintenance contract for our Class 385 fleet. It builds on the solid foundations of collaboration between ScotRail and Hitachi, ensuring our fleet remains safe, efficient, and ready to meet the future needs of Scotland's Railway. Hitachi has consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of our operational needs and a strong commitment to innovation and reliability. Their advanced technology and expertise will be instrumental in ensuring our trains remain reliable and efficient, allowing us to provide the high standard of service our customers expect and deserve."*

**Angus Thom, Senior Director Operations, Service & Maintenance, UK & Ireland at Hitachi Rail**, said: *"This new contract strongly endorses Hitachi Rail's maintenance capabilities. Our fleet is among the UK's most reliable, thanks to our close and positive collaboration with ScotRail as part of 'Team Scotland'. Together, we have delivered one of the best fleets in Britain. Everyone at Hitachi Rail looks forward to continuing this relationship into the next decade. We are committed to continuous improvement and excited by the potential to digitally future-proofing this fleet."*

The contract extension ensures that Hitachi continues to be part of 'Team Scotland' – a collaboration between ScotRail, Transport Scotland, Network Rail and Hitachi Rail. The commuter fleet was built at Hitachi Rail's UK factory in County Durham and was part of £1.3 billion investment in new trains and infrastructure funded by the Scottish Government and Network Rail.



**Note to Editors:**

- The contract commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.
- Inaugural journey of Class 385 took place on Tuesday 24 July 2018 between Glasgow Queen Street-Edinburgh Waverley via Falkirk High route.
- The Class 385 was part of ScotRail's and Transport Scotland's £475 million rolling stock investment, following the £858 million electrification of the line between Edinburgh and Glasgow.
- The Class 385 won the 'Fleet Excellence' at National RAIL Awards in 2020 and 'Golden Spanner' for fleet reliability in 2023.

**About Hitachi Rail:**

Hitachi Rail is connecting the future of mobility - helping every passenger, customer and community enjoy the benefits of more seamless, sustainable transport.

With innovative technology and world-leading delivery capabilities, Hitachi Rail is a trusted partner to customers and consortia partners globally. The company is an expert in every part of the railway: from train manufacturing and maintenance to digital signalling and smart mobility. Its pioneering products, such as the iconic high speed bullet train, enable billions of passenger journeys and the transport of millions of tonnes of freight, every year.

Drawing on the powerful expertise of the wider Hitachi group companies, Hitachi Rail is uniquely placed to further enhance its offer to customers through pioneering new digital solutions and services.

In FY22, Hitachi Rail had revenues of over €5bn. The company has around 15,000 employees in 38 countries, and it invests in its diverse and talented teams.

Hitachi Rail's business is local, but its reach is global. With deep roots in its communities, the company is committed to delivering sustainable progress for all.

Find out more by visiting [hitachirail.com](https://hitachirail.com)

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