New Network Rail Investment Programme

Network Rail announced last week a five-year £38 billion spending and investment programme.

The aim of the £38 billion spending and investment programme is to give passengers ‘more trains, more seats, reduced congestion and bigger, better stations.’

The proposed investment plan between 2014 and 2019 includes the spending of £13 billion on capital expenditure projects to build new tracks, uncork bottlenecks, increase capacity and upgrade stations. £12 billion will be spent on renewing and replacing old parts of the network and a further £13 billion on day-to-day maintenance and operating costs.

Patrick McLoughlin, Transport Secretary, explained that the investment is a ‘key part of this government’s long term economic plan is investing in world class infrastructure’. The investment is expected to promote growth, create jobs and provide a boost to business.

The investment plan will include:

- Electrifying more than 850 miles of track;
- A new electrified railway linking Oxford with Bedford and Milton Keynes;
- Station upgrades including Birmingham New Street, Manchester Victoria, Glasgow Queen Street and London Bridge;
- More than 7,000 km of renewed track; and
- Almost 300,000m² of replaced or renewed platforms.

At Beale & Company, we have extensive experience of advising those working in the rail sector, both at tender stage, on contractual issues arising during a project, in respect of dispute avoidance and in defending claims made by clients and third parties. In recent months, this has included:

- advising an international consultant in relation to role as a participant in Network Rail’s first alliance agreement in respect of a major improvement programme in the North of England (project valued at £250 million);
• advising on a dispute concerning electrical interference in a new railway signalling system; and
• drafting and advising on appointments and sub-contracts in relation to various rail projects.

Further details of our rail experience can be found here.

If you would like to learn more about how we could assist your business to make the most of these exciting new opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact Will Buckby or Ben Mullard.

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