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Award

Class 158 Single Variable Rate Sanding (SVRS) Modification

NORTHERN TRAINS LIMITED

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-007331

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-061041 ([view related notices](#))

Published 27 January 2026, 6:58pm

Scope

Description

The design, supply and certification of a proven Single Variable Rate Sanding (SVRS) for Northern's Class 158 fleet, consisting of eight three car and forty five two car units, with fitment commencing August 2026.

Contract 1. Class 158 Single Variable Rate Sanding (SVRS) Modification

Supplier

- SIEMENS MOBILITY LIMITED

Contract value

- £1,790,898 excluding VAT
- £2,149,077.60 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

6 February 2026

Contract dates (estimated)

- 6 February 2026 to 28 August 2028
- 2 years, 6 months, 23 days

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 50220000 - Repair, maintenance and associated services related to railways and other equipment

Contract locations

- UKC - North East (England)

- UKD - North West (England)
- UKE - Yorkshire and the Humber

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Special regime

Utilities

Direct award justification

Single supplier - technical reasons

Northern Trains Limited (NTL) is required to procure and install a fully certified and previously proven SVRS system by leaf fall 2026, ensuring fleet safety of NTL's Class 158 rolling stock.

The following incidents on the GB rail network has required NTL to install SRVS on its cl.158 fleet:

The Salisbury collision (Oct 21) due to poor adhesion, involving Great Western Railway and South Western Railway trains, the Powys collision (Oct 24) involving Transport for Wales trains and multiple station overruns in 2024 and 2025.

Given these incidents, there is a need to enhance the stopping capability of the Class 158 as a safety imperative.

Siemens is the only provider whose SVRS solution has proven to positively impact braking in low-adhesion conditions on Class 158s while in passenger service and is permitted for use by the asset-owner. This has been demonstrated at ScotRail.

Any alternative would not meet the timelines required by the Office of Rail and Road (ORR) and Department for Transport Operator (DFTO), making Siemens the only viable supplier for the Autumn 2026 deadline.

In conclusion, NTL's procurement under Schedule 5 paragraph 6 is justified due to the following reasons:

- a. There are no alternative suppliers with a tested solution meeting the technical requirements for Class 158s in the timeframe required by the ORR to address a safety critical matter.
- b. There are no reasonable alternative goods meeting the technical requirements for Class 158s in the timeframe required by the ORR to address a safety critical matter.

Supplier

SIEMENS MOBILITY LIMITED

- Companies House: 00016033
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PLXP-3652-TTVN

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London

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United Kingdom

Email: info.mobility.gb@siemens.com

Website: <https://www.mobility.siemens.com/uk/en.html>

Region: UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. Class 158 Single Variable Rate Sanding (SVRS) Modification

Contracting authority

NORTHERN TRAINS LIMITED

- Companies House: 03076444
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PZCJ-2164-HJQZ

George Stephenson House

York

YO1 6JT

United Kingdom

Email: procurement@northernrailway.co.uk

Region: UKE21 - York

Organisation type: Public authority - central government