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Pipeline

Class 158 Single Variable Rate Sanding (SVRS) Modification

NORTHERN TRAINS LIMITED

UK1: Pipeline notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-023862

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-051a9f ([view related notices](#))

Published 21 May 2025, 1:21pm

Scope

Description

Following the publication of the RAIB report into the Salisbury Tunnel Junction collision of October 2021 and a further collision in October 2024, where two Cl. 158 TfW units collided on the

Cambrian line, Northern has begun to assess the case for installation of variable rate sanding (VRS) on the class 158 fleet.

VRS systems apply sand to the railhead at a rate proportional to train speed maintaining the optimum 7.5g of sand per metre of rail, improving the wheel/rail interface adhesion far more than

current SFRS systems. VRS has demonstrated that safe train stopping distances can be achieved irrespective of the railhead adhesion.

Northern's 158 fleet consists of 53 units (Eight of these are three car units and 45 of these are two car units).

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2027
- 2 years

Main 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

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

23 May 2025

Procedure

Special regime

Utilities

Contracting authority

NORTHERN TRAINS LIMITED

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- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PZCJ-2164-HJQZ

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Region: UKE21 - York

Organisation type: Public authority - central government