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Contract

Class 150 & 156 Automatic Sanding Modification Upgrade

NORTHERN TRAINS LIMITED

UK7: Contract details notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-029761

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04fb19 ([view related notices](#))

Published 4 June 2025, 10:48am

Scope

Description

Following the publication of the RAIB report 12/2023 into the Salisbury Tunnel Junction collision of October 2021 and subsequent conclusions, there is direct recommendation to install automatic sanding equipment on all fleets. As such Northern is looking to develop automatic sanding modification on Northern's CL.150 and CL.156 fleets.

NTL have assessed our fleet and this notice is to direct award an agreement which will see a modification to the already installed WSP system to permit automatic sanding on cl.150 and cl.156 units (qty 288 vehicles all DMS/DMSL).

With the exception of Northern's CL.150 & CL.156 fleets, all fleets are installed with

automatic sanding systems that deposit sand onto the railhead under the third axle at a fixed rate, triggered immediately when a unit encounters low adhesion. Whereas the 15x fleets are fitted with Single Fixed Rate Sanding systems which further inadequacies of standard SFRS systems were highlighted after the Salisbury collision.

The project scope is to:

Modify already fitted SFRS system as to enable automatic sanding across the Class 150s & 156s

o Which will improve and standardise sanding response time once a unit has encountered low adhesion conditions and remove the human element.

The modification is planned to have as many units completed before leaf fall 2025 on all Northern CL150 and CL156 units as to mitigate the risk of further incidents moving forward.

Contract 1

Supplier

- AtkinsRéalis Rail & Transit Limited

Contract value

- £973,000 excluding VAT
- £1,167,600 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Date signed

8 May 2025

Contract dates

- 8 May 2025 to 6 November 2026
- 1 year, 5 months, 30 days

Main procurement category

Goods

CPV classifications

- 34621200 - Railway maintenance or service vehicles

Contract locations

- UKC - North East (England)
- UKD - North West (England)

- UKE - Yorkshire and the Humber

Key performance indicators

Name

Design Approval

On-Time Delivery across each Depot and Train type against Key Milestones

Installation Accuracy

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Special regime

Utilities

Direct award justification

Single supplier - intellectual property or exclusive rights

The purpose of this direct award is to facilitate a critical modification to the hardware and interlinking software of the Wheel Slip Protection (WSP) system currently installed across NTL's 150 and 156 fleets. This modification is essential to enhance the safety and performance of the existing system.

Rationale for Direct Award:

Proprietary Rights and Expertise:

AtkinsRealis (formerly SNC-Lavalin) holds the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for the WSP solution that was initially installed. The original equipment was fitted between May and September 2020, following funding from Network Rail (NWR) aimed at improving the safety of these units. Given their ownership of the IPR and their deep understanding of the system, AtkinsRealis is uniquely positioned to execute the required modifications.

Continuity and Compatibility:

The solution being procured through this notice involves further modifications to the existing system. As the original installer and IPR holder, AtkinsRealis possesses the necessary technical knowledge and expertise to ensure seamless integration and compatibility with the current setup. Engaging a different supplier would likely result in significant compatibility issues and potential safety risks.

Supplier

AtkinsRéalis Rail & Transit Limited

- Companies House: 3062722
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PMCD-5874-TJCP

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Surrey

KT18 5BW

United Kingdom

Email: transportationleads@atkinsglobal.com

Website: <http://www.atkinsrealis.com>

Region: UKJ26 - East Surrey

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1

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