News: £1bn Crossrail trains win for Bombardier

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65 new trains, and a depot at Old Oak Common, covered by contract

Transport for London (TfL) and the Department for Transport (DfT) announced on 6 February that they intended to award the contract to deliver rolling stock and a new depot for Crossrail to Bombardier. The contract between TfL and Bombardier, with a capital value of around £1 billion, covers the supply, delivery and maintenance of 65 new trains, and a depot at Old Oak Common. The contract award is subject to a 10 day standstill period. The contract includes options for 18 additional trains. Bombardier has confirmed that the new trains will be manufactured and assembled at its plant in Derby. This contract will support 760 UK manufacturing jobs plus 80 apprenticeships, said the DfT, with an estimated 74% of contract spend remaining in the UK economy. The construction of the maintenance depot at Old Oak Common will support 244 jobs, plus 16 apprenticeships, according to the DfT, and, when fully operational, the depot will support 80 jobs in train maintenance. Each Crossrail train will be 200 metres long and able to carry up to 1,500 passengers, said Crossrail, with key features including air conditioning and inter-connecting walk-through carriages. The lightweight trains will be built with an emphasis on energy efficiency and use of intelligent on-train energy management systems, Crossrail added. The DfT says all bidders were asked to set out how they would engage with their wider supply chains and maximise opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Bombardier will target at least 25% of the value of this contract going to SMEs. Bidders were required to manage the project through a London-based office.
and to commit to have plans to deliver job and training opportunities, including apprenticeships. Bombardier and all its suppliers are committed to paying their London-based employees the London Living Wage, which is a requirement of all Transport for London and Crossrail Limited contracts. To maximise opportunities for local recruitment, Bombardier will advertise all new jobs using the Crossrail Jobs Brokerage service which is linked to JobCentre Plus. TfL will introduce the new trains from May 2017, with the fleet progressively introduced to the existing rail network well in advance of services commencing through Crossrails central section in December 2018.