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Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
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25th February 2025

APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED HINCKLEY STRATEGIC RAIL FREIGHT INTERCHANGE DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER

Dear Secretary of State,

I write to you in reference to the Development Consent Order application for Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI).

Maritime Group (Maritime) is contracted to invest, develop and operate the proposed Rail Freight Terminal at HNRFI. The transaction is subject to grant of the DCO.

Maritime is one of the UK's largest logistics operators and market leader in container transport, leading the modal shift from road to rail. We have invested significant capital into developing new terminals and growing existing rail freight capacity across the UK.

HNRFI will be a key part of our national network and will be of particular importance in servicing the UK's major ports, HNFRI and the wider East Midlands hinterland by rail effectively.

The growth of rail freight capacity in the UK is vital to achieve effective modal shift from road to rail, and we note that the Government has stated its commitment and continued support of rail freight expansion to enable this modal shift. Major private investment in the UK's transport infrastructure, including at HNRFI, is of national importance.

We have been encouraged to invest in intermodal transport by our customers wanting to move more goods by rail rather than road. This requires a significant capital investment, and confidence that the Government's aspirations to achieve modal shift targets are matched by planning decisions.

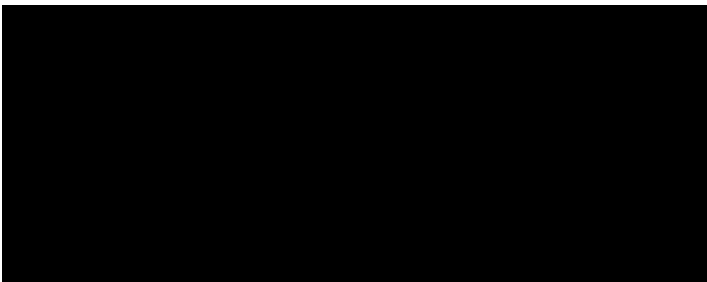


Our Felixstowe headquarters are located adjacent to the UK's largest container port, and our intermodal network covers major UK ports and conurbations, We move over 5000 containers by rail every week, each movement removing a reliance on road-based transport. Our rail freight business has increased from 3% of our turnover in 2019 to 22% in 2024. The development of HNRFI is vital for our business to continue this growth.

We note the efforts of Tritax to mitigate their impact on the local area to the best of their ability, and have firsthand experience of their collaborative approach to working with interested parties.

We urge the Secretary of State to grant the Development Consent Order for HNRFI for the benefit of the rail freight industry, and its ability to deliver macro-economic growth.

Yours sincerely



Managing Director – Intermodal