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Freightliner first in the UK to build box wagons out of recycled coal hoppers

Freightliner becomes the first UK rail operator to build European Standards compliant new box wagons from a significant proportion of recycled materials, as Freightliner Heavy Haul places into use a new fleet of wagons made using parts from redundant coal hoppers.

In support of a new a contract with Tarmac, the UK's leading building materials and construction solutions provider, Freightliner needed to provide a fleet of modern, high capacity box wagons and decided to investigate the possibility of using recycled parts from HHA (102t) coal hoppers that had recently been made redundant by the national decline in coal usage.

With the help of Greenbrier Europe, Freightliner's wagon provider of choice, it was determined that, with some modifications, the bogies (framework carrying wheels attached to the box wagon) and some of the braking equipment from the hoppers would be compatible with an existing design of box wagons that Greenbrier had previously produced.

As a result, in November 2015, Freightliner Maintenance Ltd (FML) in York began the recovery and modification of the bogies which were then transported by Freightliner Road Services to Greenbrier Europe in Poland who completed the production of the wagons.

The first 23 brand new MWA (102t) open box wagons have now arrived in the UK, transported by Freightliner Poland.

Throughout the whole complex process, Freightliner engaged fully with the Office of Rail and Road (ORR) to ensure that UK and European safety standards and legal requirements were met.

“This project has been a success thanks to the effective collaboration between Freightliner businesses: Heavy Haul, Maintenance, Road Services and Freightliner Poland. We would also like to thank our key suppliers Greenbrier and SNC Lavalin for their support with the project,” said Paul Smart, managing director, Freightliner Heavy Haul Limited.

Joerg Greshake, sales & marketing director of Greenbrier Europe commented: “The great working relationship we have with Freightliner meant that we could work together to find an innovative and sustainable box wagon solution that fully met the needs of both the customer and ORR standards.”

Chris Swan, senior manager, rail and shipping at Tarmac, said: “Modern, efficient wagons have an important role to play as we drive freight expansion and increase the transportation of materials from production sites to construction markets. It's good to see equipment and materials being repurposed, especially as this is a key part of Tarmac's approach to sustainability and business.”

The creative approach taken by Freightliner meant that redundant assets were given new life in the form of recycled bogies and brake components that would have stood unused and deteriorating, reducing waste and saving energy.

Freightliner has, with this project, paved the way for similar projects in the future and shown that wagons for a changing market can be produced using recycled components from existing wagons that still have useful life in them.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Freightliner Group:

Freightliner Group is a leading rail freight provider with businesses in the United Kingdom, Continental Europe, Australia and the Middle East. It employs over 2,500 staff and offers customers a wide range of rail freight solutions to cater for the requirements of a diverse market sector.

Freightliner Ltd

The U.K.'s largest transporter and inland terminal operator for the movement of deep sea maritime containers.

Freightliner Heavy Haul

A leading U.K. bulk rail freight company setting new standards of reliability, flexibility and customer service in the bulk rail freight sector whilst continuing to invest in innovative solutions for customers' business needs.

Freightliner Maintenance

Operating specialist facilities around the U.K., Freightliner Maintenance offers infrastructure services and maintenance solutions for rolling stock.

Freightliner Poland and Germany

Providing bulk rail freight services including coal, aggregates and other bulk commodities within Poland and Germany and cross border.

Freightliner Australia

Transports coal and containerised agricultural products for customers in New South Wales and is an accredited rail service provider in Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland.

ERS Railways

Provides cross border intermodal services connecting the northern European ports of Rotterdam, Bremerhaven and Hamburg to key cities in Germany, Poland, Italy and beyond.

Freightliner Middle East

Responsible for developing services to support this rapidly growing region. Recently signed a contract to support the development of world class rail freight services in Saudi Arabia.

Across the Group, Freightliner continues to invest in locomotive technology, wagons and terminal infrastructure to provide safe, high quality, reliable service to customers.

Freightliner Group is owned by Genesee & Wyoming Inc. (G&W).

About G&W:

- G&W owns or leases 121 freight railroads worldwide that are organised in 11 operating regions with 7,500 employees and more than 2,800 customers.
- G&W's nine North American regions serve 41 U.S. states and four Canadian provinces and include 113 short line and regional freight railroads with more than 13,000 track-miles.
- G&W's Australia Region provides rail freight services in New South Wales, the Northern Territory and South Australia and operates the 1,400-mile Tarcoola-to-Darwin rail line.
- G&W's U.K./Europe Region is led by Freightliner.

G&W subsidiaries provide rail service at more than 40 major ports in North America, Australia and Europe and perform contract coal loading and railcar switching for industrial customers.