**Greater Manchester Tram-Train TfGM Vehicle Market Sounding**

The Draft Delivery Plan 2020-25, in support of the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040, includes proposals to introduce tram-train services as part of an enhanced rapid transit public transport offering. This will significantly expand the current Greater Manchester rapid transit network with several new lines and extensions to the existing services. The transport strategy builds upon the success of the Metrolink tram network which has grown to a 100km, 120 vehicle network in under thirty years.

In recent months, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) has announced Greater Manchester: Our Network3 and, as part of this, the Our Prospectus for Rail44. These plans outline a step-change in the role of rail to support the region’s planned growth and a masterplan to double the number of rail journeys in the city-region by 2040. The introduction of tram-train services is a key part of these plans.

The purpose of this market sounding, issued under Pro Contract opportunity number DN450813, is to enable Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) to gain a better understanding of the capabilities of the tram-train vehicle supplier market. This knowledge will assist TfGM in planning future tram-train specifications, procurements, extensions to existing services and future new services in a way that best aligns with the capabilities of the market. In addition, this engagement may also provide experience from which to inform the strategy for the renewal of the existing fleet of vehicles at the end of their operating life.

Participation in this market sounding is voluntary, and this exercise is entirely separate from any subsequent procurement activity. Participation in this market sounding will not affect the opportunity for rail vehicle suppliers to participate in any subsequent procurement and will not form part of any procurement assessment or selection process.

As the process will be managed through the Pro Contract ePortal Interested parties should;

* Express interest via the ePortal.
* Email David.gregg@tfgm.com confirming interest and provide current prime Pro Contract user’s email address.

Following receipt TfGM will;

* Issue a Confidentiality Agreement (CA) via the ePortal which must be signed and returned via the same route.
* Following receipt Of the CA TfGM will issue, via the ePortal, supplementary documentation and a supplier questionnaire which should be returned by 31/01/2020.

TfGM will potentially hold supplier engagement sessions through February, March and April.