

25th September 2002

'Piggyback' System Launched at Tilbury

The Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) welcomed the formal launch today of the Blue Circle Consortium's 'Piggyback' intermodal freight system.

The launch, at the Riverside Terminal, Tilbury, illustrated how the specially designed rail wagons can be used to transport similarly specialised tankers and trailers close to their final destination, where they are transferred to road for the final leg of their journey to customers.

The system secured SRA funding of £2.9m in June 2000 as joint winner of a competition to encourage innovative rail freight projects.

Speaking at the launch, SRA Chairman Richard Bowker said:

"To achieve our target of 80% growth in rail freight by 2010 requires not just a national strategy but also some really innovative approaches from individual companies. This project is a great example of that, benefiting the environment both locally and nationally."

Further, detailed information on the project can be found at <http://www.piggybacktrial.com>

**For further details contact the Department for Transport Rail Press desk:
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