

GWR contracts for new 4-carriage electric trains for Thames Valley

I wanted you to be one of the first to know that GWR have now signed a multi-million-pound deal with train manufacturer Bombardier and leasing company Porterbrook for 37 Class 387 four-carriage electric trains. These will join the eight already ordered by GWR. This brand new fleet of trains will replace our diesel Turbo trains that operate in the Thames Valley.

This will mean all our Thames Valley electric commuter fleet is brand new and of the same design. We are really pleased with the result and are issuing the media release set out below later this morning.

You will be aware that originally we were going to have a number of almost new electric trains cascaded from another operator. These brand new trains however are coming straight from the manufacturer, and I am pleased that we have been able to work collaboratively with industry partners to give GWR a single, modern standardised fleet. This will mean we have brand new trains in place in time to use on electrified Thames valley services as Network Rail complete the next stages of modernisation work.

The trains can be run in four, eight- and 12-carriage formations, with the latter providing 97 more seats per train than the longest Turbo train today.

The first of the Class 387 trains - or GWR Electrostars - will be introduced on new Hayes & Harlington to London Paddington services on September 5, and will help provide an additional 1,400 seats at the busiest times every day for commuters.

I will continue to keep you up to date on this and on the progress of the modernisation programme, but please do contact me if you would like more information on these new trains, or indeed on any aspect of our service.

Best wishes

Mark Hopwood