

## **Hitachi Rail awards contract to KM Tools for train carriage ‘smart jigs’**

29 April 2021

**KM Tools, a specialist manufacturer of bespoke machinery, has completed a contract awarded by Hitachi Rail for the design, manufacture, installation and maintenance of smart jigs at its Newton Aycliffe production facility. The recently installed jigs are supporting Hitachi Rail in the fabrication and welding of high-speed trains destined for the UK rail network.**

Neil Harrison, Sales Manager at KM Tools, said: “We are delighted to be awarded this contract from a market-leading OEM such as Hitachi Rail. Our turnkey engineering service for specialised production machinery proved an ideal fit for this high-profile contract. Experience of working closely with other OEMs in the automotive and rail sectors also ensured we had the right engineering expertise and capacity to support large, modern production lines like Hitachi’s in Newton Aycliffe.”

Hitachi Rail’s advanced facility at Newton Aycliffe is the result of a £110m investment by the company. The facility has already delivered 122 pioneering trains for the Department for Transport’s InterCity Express Programme (IEP) for the East Coast and Great Western Main Line as well as 70 all electric commuter trains for ScotRail. The facility will also build trains for the wider UK network.

The jigs provided by KM Tools allow the main subassemblies (floor, sides and roof) to be held in position for welding and finishing. Each jig has been manufactured entirely in-house by KM Tools in Staffordshire to Hitachi Rail specifications.

Furthermore, KM Tools is providing responsive on-site technical and maintenance support to Hitachi manufacturing teams.

Mark Snowdon, Quality Engineer at Hitachi Rail, added: “KM Tools has been absolutely fantastic from the beginning. The company has been completely professional all the way through, and its engineering capabilities are second to none. We look forward to working with KM Tools again and are already planning future ventures with them.”



[Click here to watch this video on YouTube](#)

**Image captions:**



**Image 1:** KM Tools 'Smart Jig' installed onsite at Hitachi Rail in Newton Aycliffe



**Image 2:** KM Tools 'Smart Jig' installed onsite at Hitachi Rail in Newton Aycliffe



**Image 3:** The jigs provided by KM Tools allow the main subassemblies to be held in position for welding and finishing



**Image 4:** The jigs provided by KM Tools allow the main subassemblies to be held in position for welding and finishing



**Image 5:** The KM Tools team is providing responsive on-site technical and maintenance support to Hitachi manufacturing teams

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## About KM Tools Ltd

KM Tools Ltd (KMT) specialises in manufacturing, maintaining and renewing specialised machines used for the manufacture of automotive components, with a specialist focus on emission control (Exhaust, CAT & DPF) product manufacture. It also specialises in providing precision assembly-line jigs and machines for the rail industry.

Its machines are used by leading brand manufacturers building parts for the OE market and the automotive aftermarket across the globe. Our manufacturing and service centre is based in a purpose built facility the Midlands from which it manufactures, services and rebuilds and supports hundreds of individual machines.

KMT can service, support and re-manufacture most machines from any original manufacturer, including one-off custom designs. It also develops tooling and workholding solutions such as bespoke automated, or semi-automated mandrels, jig and fixturing systems.

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