

Northern Ireland orders CAF DMUs

Northern Ireland transport operator Translink and the Department for Regional Development have signed a £105million order for 20 three-car diesel multiple-units from CAF of Spain.

All 20 are to be in service by 2013. The Class 4000 design is a development of the 23 Class 3000 units delivered four years ago, offering better fuel efficiency. The order will lead to withdrawal of 13 Class 80 and 450 trains.

A three-year government budget allocates £137million to the rail network until 2010/11. Other projects include track improvement between Ballymena and Coleraine, and a new passing loop and upgraded signalling for an hourly service between Belfast and Londonderry. An additional train maintenance facility is to be provided at Adelaide, Belfast.