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# PRESS RELEASE

## STRAINSTALL ACQUIRES THE RAILWAY ENGINEERING COMPANY LTD (TRE)

Strainstall Group Ltd is pleased to announce its acquisition of The Railway Engineering Company Limited (TRE). Founded in 2000 by three leading senior rail control specialists, TRE are a specialist provider of complex, advanced control systems and services to the rail industry. Its capabilities in modelling, software development and simulation give it a unique ability to enable clients to trial solutions before committing them to the live environment. Network Rail has used TRE's signaller training and assessment system, TRESIM, extensively at signalling centres throughout its network and has recently committed to the use of its signaller's assistant system at several signalling centres on the west coast main line. TRE's system development skills have also been widely employed by a number of major UK signalling system suppliers.

The company employs 25 staff from its Westbury headquarters. TRE will continue to operate as a separate business within the group, and all three founder members will be retained full-time in their TRE director roles.

Managing Director, Chris Caws, commented "the addition of TRE further strengthens Strainstall's rail offering and compliments our commitment to safety systems. TRE is at the cutting edge of rail safety and we intend to further build upon their reputation as a centre of knowledge and excellence for railway signalling and control systems."

Strainstall Group now operates from 9 locations in the UK, mainland Europe and USA through six subsidiary companies employing a total of 129 staff. The Group is a broad based engineering business, specialising in load



measurement and sensor based safety technology, with over 40 years of experience in a wide range of industries. Market sectors include marine, offshore, transport, power, civil, rail and construction on a worldwide basis. Within the rail industry Straininstall supply sensors and systems to monitor a complex array of parameters, covering points, track dynamics, bridges and tunnels and the wheel-rail interface. The acquisition of TRE will further broaden the Group's rail interests.

The acquisition was funded by Bank of Scotland, with legal and financial advisory services being provided by Moore & Blatch and Tenon respectively. Straininstall Group also has backing from venture capitalists Chrysalis VCT Management Ltd.

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