## United Kingdom Rail Electrification Strategies, Magnitude & Challenges

# **ATKINS**

Member of the SNC-Lavalin Group



#### Paul Frost CEng MIMechE Technical Lead for Rail and Transit



Ryan Scott CEng MIET Electrification Lead



## History



- Initial Overhead Electrification 1930/40's
- BR Modernization in 1960's
- Electrification expansion 1980/90's
- WCML Upgrade 2000's
- CTRL/HS1 2000's





## **New Investment**

- Part of Government rail modernization and Carbon Reduction strategies
- Reduces environmental impact at point of use
- Provides an improvement on existing services
- Generates economic growth
- Reduces overall rail industry costs
- Once in a generation opportunity due to life expiry of current rolling stock





## Challenges

- Skills base shortage
  - Both in technical competency and quantity
  - Competing projects
- Available and suitable on track
  machinery
  - Adaptation of European plant for UK infrastructure constraints
  - Improvements in safety







## Challenges

- Antiquated standards
  - Culture change in industry around safety by design
  - Alignment with European Standards (where relevant)
  - Poor understanding of risk based design (CSM)
- Integration with existing infrastructure
  - Signaling, Telecoms, Civils infrastructure (viaducts/bridges etc.)
  - Electrification should be seen as a Route Upgrade







## What We Did - Midland Main Line

#### Modernization of attitude

- The greatest challenge with the ability to provide the greatest benefits
- Required top down leadership and baked into contracting strategy
- Open minded client who Incentivized innovation
- Recognition of the benefits of Upfront engineering

#### Modernization of standards

- Adoption of EN's into company standards
- Challenging existing standards, how has the technology changed?

#### Modernization of approach

- Utilization of technology
- Automated design
- 4/5D planning







# **Digital Electrification Design**

# Developed an innovative suite of tools for OCS design efficiency:

- Faster incorporation of design changes
- Automatic generation of a 3D BIM model (Level 2)
- Reduction in design and site errors
- Agnostic to equipment range and easily scalable for new markets
- Deliver multiple Electrification projects without the need to grow the resource pool





## What We Did - Midland Main Line

- CSM workshops
  - Identified additional scope
  - Identified conflicts with other railway systems
  - Provided an auditable history of risk management
  - Involve construction teams early
  - Established OCS construction as a competency
- Whole life cost perspective
  - Allowed informed decision making
  - Balanced CAPEX and OPEX in numerous areas
  - In many instances reduced CAPEX due to better understanding of future costs





# **Atkins Lite Structure Design**

- Optimization using standardized hollow sections
- Increased tolerances improving maximizing output during short blocks
- Integrated lifting cleat built into the capping plate
- Allows AT wiring prior to installation of booms
- All booms are supported by the masts to assist with bolt installation
- Mast to baseplate interface detail designed as through detail for maximum durability
- Removed adapter plate requirement





#### **Lessons Learned**



- Better management of scarce Resources and Plant
- Better Industry wide planning of projects
- Need to finalize design concept before progressing with detail and construction





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What do these lessons mean for the USA

- Electrification of existing commuter corridors
- Safety improvements reduction in capitol and operational costs
- Environmental and Social benefits not to be underestimated
- Electrification is a Route Wide Upgrade
- Budgets, Policy and Timing to be aligned with the engineering solution
- Develop standards that are industry (not state) wide
- Innovation includes contracting strategy (behaviors)





## **Questions?**



Member of the SNC-Lavalin Group



#### Paul Frost CEng MIMechE

Technical Lead for Rail and Transit

#### **Atkins North America**

paul.frost@atkinsglobal.com (240) 687-2821





Ryan Scott CEng MIET Electrification Lead

#### **Network Rail Consulting**

ryan.scott@networkrailconsulting.com (916) 837 - 9318

