



PROVIDING THE RAIL PLANNING SYSTEM TO SUCCEED

CASE STUDY

As a specialist rail consultancy, PRA Operations Planning (PRA) manages rail operations and timetabling on behalf of a various major UK train operators. Since being set up in 2010, the company has worked on almost 200 projects in total. Its team of 10 employees have a wealth of rail experience and knowledge obtained from a range of disciplines within the industry.

Having worked with several rail planning solutions since the organisation was formed, PRA in 2019 made the decision to switch to solely using Signature Rail's TrainPlan system. Its team now exclusively uses TrainPlan to deliver all consultancy projects on time and budget across the UK.



**Signature
Rail**

INTRODUCING TRAINPLAN

PRA Managing Director Simon Pilkington, explains that this decision became inevitable due to the company's growth: "Other systems worked up to a point, with various levels of clarity, but as we took on more clients, we needed better graphing and manipulation tools, as timetabling was becoming clunky and time consuming. We wanted a system to fit around us – not the other way around. We needed a system that was more user-defined and therefore user-friendly."

Signature Rail's TrainPlan was chosen because it enabled the team to create reliable and resilient train schedules for clients and provided planners with tools to manage timetabling across all time horizons.

TrainPlan fully supports rail operators' business processes and automatically validates the schedule for conflicts, as well as providing an environment for 'what if' scenarios and extensive calendaring functionality.

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Simon Pilkington, PRA Managing Director





IMPROVING PROCESSES


TRAIN GRAPHS

For Simon, TrainPlan's train graphs functionality was the key factor: "Graphs are crucially important and about 95% of the job itself. With other systems, timetabling would take far longer as it wasn't visually clear which trains were on what lines, and when."

"TrainPlan's graphs are second to none – it is far clearer visually, and we can alter the system in terms of display to suit us. We can also change the way platforms and stops are laid out, whether numerically or in the order we see them at the station, which makes it so easy to visualise the timetable in action."

"We can see multiple lines at once, all of which are easily identifiable as being a train on slow or fast (or Main or Relief) lines and we can see if there is a conflict within seconds to keep services running smoothly."

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UPDATE INSTRUCTIONS

TrainPlan is built from the ground-up to meet the requirements of actual rail planners – and this even goes right through into the updates process.

Simon commented: "When we first received TrainPlan's update instructions our IT specialist said it is clear the Signature Rail team know what they are doing, so updating is now an easy five-minute job. This is great as we don't have time to waste, and it makes it easier to ensure we have the most up-to-date system in full working order to complete our customers' projects to the best standard."



SUCCESS STORIES

Simon and his team have used TrainPlan to successfully carry out projects of all sizes and complexity for their customers, including the manipulation of up to 90,000 schedules for various projects.

Simon said: "Using TrainPlan on the East Coast Main Line Project enabled us to align with exactly what the client wanted through graph analysis and scenario planning. This very successful project was assisted by TrainPlan as our preferred software system."

PRA also worked with Virgin Trains to restore all services through London to Blackpool. Simon said: "TrainPlan helped make this project a success - and again, it was really obvious how the graphs worked extremely well. It was a very complex project, but we were able to have it in operation within twelve months."

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Managing Director*



ABOUT SIGNATURE RAIL

Signature Rail is a global provider of Enterprise Rail Solutions. Established in 1990 in the United Kingdom originating from the planning expertise that evolved from British Rail, our goal is to provide intelligent rail planning solutions that deliver cleaner, safer, smarter travel. Deep rail knowledge is in our DNA, which is why we focus exclusively on the needs of rail operators worldwide. We know that rail operators depend upon accurate data and intelligent, visual, easy to use software to operate successful train services.

TTG AND SIGNATURE RAIL

In 2021 TTG Transportation Technology (TTG) became part of Signature Rail. TTG has been delivering connected driver advisory systems to the global Rail industry since 2007. TTG solutions are in operation on four continents with an install base of over 8,000 fixed and portable units globally on passenger, freight and heavy haul trains, diesel and electric ranging from 22,000 tonnes and 2.5 km long heavy haul to 320 km/h very high-speed trains.

#WeAreModaxo

Signature Rail and TTG are part of Modaxo, a family of hi-tech software companies focusing on people transportation. Modaxo brings together some of the best and brightest people, technology solutions, and businesses from across the world to deliver new opportunities in, and approaches to, innovation in People Transportation. Find out more at www.modaxo.com.

SNAPSHOT

Signature Rail:

Established 1990

Active in **seven countries**
across three continents

Serving **five** great
metropolises

380 million passenger
journeys each year

We support **4,000** train
vehicles across **12,000 km** of
track and **750 stations** –
and growing...

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S I G N A T U R E R A I L . C O M



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