



# Investment delivers

Record investment in our rail network is delivering benefits for rail customers across our system. After decades of underinvestment, Iarnród Éireann are transforming every element of the rail service, from critical safety investment in infrastructure to modernising of our stations to brand new fleet with the highest standards of comfort and customer facilities. Many projects have been completed – on time and on budget – as customers can see as they travel with us every day.

## Safety investment programme

In five years over €650 million has been invested in safety critical projects, to transform the network and secure the future of routes around the country for the communities they serve.

The safety of our infrastructure, on every route on the network, has been improved in that time through:

- Over 400 miles of track upgraded to Continuous Welded Rail on concrete sleepers.
- The resignalling of the Galway, Waterford, Tralee and Sligo lines to modern computerised signalling.
- The Heuston terminus area has been resignalled, along with additional platforms.
- Over 700 level crossings improved or closed, resulting in safer user conditions and a safer environment for trains.
- Millions invested in coastal defence works to protect the railway line from tidal erosion.
- 220 miles of new fencing, protecting the railway from trespass.
- Major investment in bridge renewals, embankments and train radio safety communication systems.
- Effective safety systems and training to ensure the highest standards are followed.

## DART and Commuter fleet expansion

Record demand for rail services in the Greater Dublin area has led to record investment in our fleet to meet the needs of our customers.

The DART fleet is being doubled in just over four years. At the start of 2000, the service operated with the same 80 carriages which began in 1984, despite passenger numbers having more than doubled. Now, 154 carriages are in the fleet catering for over 90,000 customers every day, and the original fleet is being refurbished to ensure DART customers continue to get the quality service they have come to expect.

DART Upgrade has been completed, allowing eight-car DARTs to operate, and dramatically improving accessibility in our stations.

Growth has also been strong on the Commuter routes that spread out from Dublin city, and on Cork commuter and Limerick-Ennis services.

In 1999, just 17 dedicated commuter railcars were in the fleet. Now, a modern fleet of 180 railcars have delivered massive capacity growth on the Northern, Maynooth, Kildare, and Gorey Commuter services, as well as multiplying carriages in Cork and Limerick. With growth still continuing, Commuter services have expanded also for customers commuting from as far as Longford, Athlone, Carlow, Portlaoise and Dundalk. The expanded fleet has also benefitted Sligo and Rosslare services.



## Quality servicing for quality service

A new fleet needed a new maintenance facility, and Iarnród Éireann completed the €41 million Railcar Service Centre in Drogheda in 2004, like so many investment projects, on time and under budget. The state of the art complex has resulted in improved performance and reliability for customers on the commuter fleet.

## Heuston – the hub of the national network

To cater for the forecast increase in Intercity and Commuter services in the years ahead, Iarnród Éireann invested €117 million in developing Heuston Station, the flagship station on the network. Benefiting customers on all Intercity routes and Commuter services into the station, the Heuston investment has provided capacity for growth for decades to come, as well as a modern, customer-focused terminus station with a range of facilities second to none.

The Heuston investment mirrors the improvements in stations around the system, with special attention to the needs of mobility and sensory impaired customers incorporated into all stations – and indeed fleet – investment.



## Here's ones we prepared earlier!

And that's not to forget major investments of recent years such as:

- The Belfast Enterprise service: launched in 1997, the EU-funded Enterprise saw the Dublin-Belfast route benefiting from new trains, new track and signalling, improved station facilities and extra frequency, and kicked off the new era of rail investment by showing that rail investment delivers!

- New stations have been opened in recent years at a number of key locations, including Clontarf Road, Grand Canal Dock, Drumcondra, Kilcock and Monasterevan, not forgetting the extension of DART services to Greystones and Malahide.

- The Maynooth Commuter service was transformed with an investment completed in 2001 which doubled the track between Clonsilla and Maynooth, and transformed the service through new station buildings, longer platforms, new signalling and of course new trains.

**Rail investment delivers for our customers and our country – and there's more to come.**