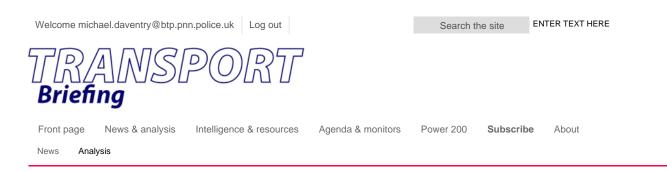
# National Express linked to Renfe UK rail plans | Transport Briefing



# National Express linked to Renfe UK rail plans

## Posted 23/12/11

Spanish media have reported that state-owned train operator Renfe could enter into a partnership with National Express Group to bid for a range of forthcoming UK rail franchises.

Such a move would enhance the position of NEG as a UK rail franchise bidder after the early termination of its East Coast franchise operation three years ago. The group subsequently failed to make the shortlist with its bid to retain the Greater Anglia franchise.

Renfe is known to be keen to enter the UK rail market (TB 8062) and is understood to have looked closely at a bid for London-based transport group Go Ahead in order to achieve market entry.

NEG has close links with the Spanish transport market through its ownership of the country's largest inter-city coach operator Alsa. That business was previously owned by the Cosmen family which has a combined stake of 17% in NEG.

Meanwhile, NEG this week released a pre-close trading update that reveals that the group is "firmly on target to deliver revenue and profit growth in 2011 in every one of its divisions". Full year profit is expected to be in line with board expectations.

In Spain, revenue growth is expected to be 5% and trading has remained robust after the busy summer season. In North America, revenue growth for the full year is expected to be 8%, following a successful start to the new school year. UK bus

### **RELATED ARTICLES**

DfT considers handing ORR rail franchise powers Talks underway to devolve northern rail powers Thameslink and Southern franchises to merge DfT authorises £30m to lengthen Western trains Scottish post-2014 rail consultation launched Spanish rail operator eyes UK franchise market Holt to oversee National Express rail fightback Dutch rail operator to run East Anglia trains TransPennine extended as rail programme revised Franks leaves Swedes to head West Coast bid

#### PASSENGER TRANSPORT

This article was first published in Passenger Transport, the leading fortnightly magazine covering the UK transport sector. Transport Briefing subscribers are entitled to a 20% discount off Passenger Transport annual subscriptions. To order the magazine for £112 (normal price £140)

email editor@transportbriefing.co.uk.



margins have improved with revenue up by 4%. The coach division has also seen growth of 6% with rail division revenues expected to grow by 6% in 2011. "National Express is finishing 2011 in excellent shape," said chief executive Dean Finch.

Front page News index

Front page	News & analysis	Intelligence	& resol
------------	-----------------	--------------	---------

ources

Agenda & monitors Power 200 Subscribe About

Transport Briefing is published by Acumen Intelligence Ltd. Unless otherwise specified all content © Acumen Intelligence 2012. We've been writing about transport infrastructure since 2002 - we also produce the Crossrailnews and HS2 News websites. Contact Transport Briefing: email editor@transportbriefing.co.uk or telephone 01225 460181. Follow us on Twitter @transportb.