



Photo: Dan Sellers.

First Group expected to pip Branson to West Coast

13 Aug 2012 · by [Marc Johnson](#) · in [Featured Rail News](#), [Franchise News](#), [Rail News](#), [Train Operating Companies](#) · [0 Comments](#)

Rail union RMT is gearing up to challenge West Coast favourites First Group over fears that jobs could be lost if the company is awarded the franchise later this week.

The UK's biggest operator is expected to cross the finishing line ahead of Virgin after submitting a bid thought to be around £1 billion more than its nearest rival for the 14-year franchise.

RMT is now planning a large-scale public campaign to protect jobs after being advised by fleet maintenance company Alstom that the winning bid is likely to put 800 jobs at risk with the removal of shops and catering to add extra seating capacity.

RMT general secretary Bob Crow said: "Whoever wins the West Coast route this week, and all the signs point to First Group, they should be left in no doubt that RMT will mount a massive industrial, political and public campaign to stop any attacks on our members jobs and the services that they provide to the travelling public."

Branson has described First's rumored bid of £7 billion as 'unrealistic', warning that the quality of service would have to be cut drastically to meet the £500m a year payment to the taxpayer.

Sources at the Department for Transport (DfT) have said this would roughly equate to the operator paying them £16 per passenger journey, before any money is used to fund operating costs.

Whoever wins the West Coast route this week they should be left in no doubt that RMT will mount a massive industrial, political and public campaign to stop any attacks on our members jobs and the services that they provide to the travelling public.

Crow added: "From the leaked figures it is clear that this franchise in being let on pure McNulty terms with a gold-plated, 12-year contract linked to massive cuts to jobs and passenger services and huge increases in fares as the winning bidder battles to extract every penny that they can in profit.



TRENDING ARTICLES

[East Coast responds to high complaint figure](#)

East Coast has said it is continuing to improve customer service after a su...

[First Group expected to pip Branson to West Coast](#)

Rail union RMT is gearing up to challenge

West Coast favourites First Group...

[India and Belgium sign rail improvement pledge](#)

India and Belgium have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the d...

[Delhi office opened as Interfleet continues expansion](#)

International rail consultancy Interfleet has opened a second Indian office...

[Campaigners urge re-think ahead of predicted fare rise](#)

The Government is expected to announce fare increases of as much as 5.7 per...

“The new West Coast deal in an exercise in casino franchising that lays bare the whole sordid enterprise which is rail privatisation. Companies promise the earth, jack up fares and slash jobs and services in a drive for profits and if the numbers don't stack up they throw back the keys and expect the public sector to pick up the pieces.”

Related News

[Branson warns Greening not to be swayed by unrealistic bids](#)



Follow @rail_media



Add a comment...

Post to Facebook

Posting as Michael Daventry ([Change](#))

[Comment](#)

Facebook social plugin

0 comments • 3 reactions

0 Stars



Leave a message...

Discussion

Community

No one has commented yet.

ALSO ON RAIL.CO

[What's this?](#) [×](#)

Branson warns Greening not to be swayed by unrealistic bids

0 • 3 comments • 11 days ago

Guest — To be fair to Virgin Trains they have imposed two of the most ergonomically deficient train designs ...

Industry reacts to news of £9 billion rail investment

0 • 1 comment • a month ago

KitGreen — What has the rail industry made of the government's HLOS programme? We welcome the opportunity that t...

RAIL.CO WEEKLY RAIL UPDATE

Email Address

[Subscribe](#)

THE LATEST RAIL ENGINEER MAGAZINE

THE LATEST RAILSTAFF NEWSPAPER

[Open publication](#) - [Free publishing](#) - [More engineer](#)

LATEST TWEETS

East Coast responds to high complaint figure
<http://t.co/p10PhMt3> #rail

First Group expected to p.p Branson to West Coast
<http://t.co/pz7nW6jZ> #rail

India and Belgium sign rail improvement pledge
<http://t.co/cVtAVtz> #rail

LATEST RAIL JOBS

Estimator / Senior Estimator

We urgently require either an estimator or senior estimator to work within our clients tunnels division based in London. For an estimator we would be looking for individuals with a minimum of 5 years experience with a Civil Engineering contractor. For a S... [...]

Electrical Site Supervisor Water - Contract

Electrical Site Supervisor - Water - Contractor Working on Waste Water Treatment plants in the Anglian Water region on a contract basis Location Derby Salary 270 - 300 per day

*depending on experience/qualification
Duration- Minimum 6 months, likely 12 mon...
[...]*

Site Access Controller

Our client is looking for several Site Access Controllers to work within their control centre on several live sites on rail construction projects in central London. They are looking for several SACs with experience in the railways to book contractor and c... [...]

GLOBAL RAIL NEWS

[UK Rail News](#)
[Australian Rail News](#)
[Asia Rail News](#)
[Chinese Rail News](#)
[Indian Rail News](#)
[Middle East Rail News](#)
[USA Rail News](#)

RESOURCES

[About rail.co](#)
[Subscribe to our print publications](#)
[the rail engineer Print Archive](#)
[RailStaff Print Archive](#)

[Rail Media Blog](#)

CONTACT

tel: +44 1530 56 00 26

[Contact us](#)

[Twitter](#)

THE RAIL MEDIA NETWORK

[Rail.co](#)
[RailStaff](#)
[the rail engineer](#)
[Railway People.com](#)
[The RailStaff Awards](#)
[Rail News Australia](#)
[Rail News USA](#)
[Rail News India](#)
[Rail Media](#)