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Richard Brown to leave Eurostar after 11 years

Posted 16/05/13

Former airline boss Clare Hollingsworth is to succeed Richard Brown as chairman of Eurostar from July 2013.

The cross-Channel train operator said Brown has decided to step down from the Eurostar board when his three year term comes to an end on 30 June.

Richard Brown has been with the company for the past 11 years and has overseen the transformation of Eurostar from an unincorporated partnership to a unified corporate entity, Eurostar International Ltd, in 2010.

He joined Eurostar as chief executive in 2002 and led the business through the launch of high speed passenger rail services in the UK and the transfer of Eurostar's London base from Waterloo to St Pancras station. However, he was forced to apologise when extreme wintry weather resulted in the breakdown of Eurostar trains in December 2009, leaving passengers stranded in squalid conditions during the Christmas travel period. Following the corporate restructuring he was handed the chairman role with France's Nicolas Petrovic taking over as chief executive.

Brown's decision to step down from the board of Eurostar follows his decision earlier this year to become chairman of the Department for Transport's Franchise Advisory Panel. He is also a non executive director of High Speed Two Ltd and Chair of Catalyst Housing.

Clare Hollingsworth joined the Board of Eurostar as an independent non-executive director in 2010. She is also on the boards of estate agent Savills, Virgin Healthcare, Swedish medical technology firm Molnlycke and Spire Healthcare. Prior to her non-executive roles she was chief executive of Spire Healthcare and its predecessor business, BUPA Hospitals. Before Spire Healthcare she spent 20 years at British Airways including eight years as managing director of Caledonian Airways.

Richard Brown said: "It has been a great privilege to be at the heart of Eurostar's growth and expansion over the last decade but the time is right for me to hand over the reins. Eurostar is now an internationally respected brand and I have every confidence that it will go from strength to strength in the future. With her knowledge of the company and her experience of consumer-facing businesses, Clare is perfectly placed to lead the board through the next phase of Eurostar's development."

Clare Hollingsworth added: "I am delighted to be taking on the chairmanship of Eurostar at this time. Over the last three years the business has been transformed into a successful private entity delivering strong growth in passenger numbers and profitability. With the arrival of a new fleet of trains and the launch of additional services over the next couple of years, we are entering a new phase and I look forward to supporting the Eurostar team in driving the future growth of the business."

Clare Hollingsworth: Eurostar board member takes over from Brown as chairman



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