

Icomera

From Concept to Carriage: Transforming the Railway 200 Exhibition

By Mike Mortimer, Director of DG8



The UK rail industry is marking the bicentenary of the modern railway through the cross-sector Railway 200 campaign.

Earlier this year, the exhibition train Inspiration began its year-long tour. Over the next twelve months, this free, family-friendly train is scheduled to visit around sixty main line stations, heritage railways and freight sites, giving more than 200,000 people the chance to step aboard and explore rail's past, present and future.

DG8, Icomera's in-house design and engineering team, played a central role in realising the concept.

Working alongside Network Rail and the wider Railway 200 team, DG8 developed the initial idea into detailed drawings and documentation, then supported manufacture and installation as British Rail Mark 3 coaches were converted into engaging and accessible exhibition spaces designed to handle high visitor numbers. As part of Icomera, the world leader in connected transport solutions, DG8 brings deep rail engineering expertise to projects that combine passenger experience, safety and operational efficiency.

For Inspiration, DG8 translated a compelling educational vision into a practical interior architecture. The team coordinated constraints such as vehicle structure, power, lighting, accessibility and passenger



The bicentenary is a great opportunity to look back on all that the railway has achieved for communities across the world, the things that it does well, the areas where we can do better and to look forward and plan for the next 200 years. Inspiration will hopefully do just that and show those that visit the train what fantastic opportunities for learning and development exist within the rail industry and hopefully lead to the next generation coming through into the railway.

Ingenious Technology, Intelligent Solutions, Inspiring Partners

This project demonstrates how DG8 supports the rail industry with passenger-enhancing, life-extending upgrades to older vehicles delivered sustainably and cost-effectively.

DG8 also supports its parent company, on-train Internet specialists, Icomera, by delivering design and engineering projects that integrate new, ingenious technologies, such as LEO satellite connectivity and 5G-enabled on-board routers, into existing fleets, turning digital ambition into rail-certified reality.

Rail operators will increasingly utilise high-speed, low-latency mobile internet connectivity for real-time monitoring, remote diagnostics and onboard systems management: intelligent solutions that do more than connect; they enhance, protect and optimise.

Together, Icomera and DG8 are turning data and design into equitable, sustainable, passenger-centric mobility, acting as inspiring partners for the smart, connected journey.

Watch our video of the exhibition [here](#).

www.icomera.com
www.dg8design.com
www.railway200.co.uk

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flow, ensuring the spaces remain robust, safe and intuitive for visitors while respecting the heritage character of the vehicles. The result is a mobile exhibition that feels purposeful and professional yet welcoming to families and school groups.

A four-carriage journey through rail's past, present and future awaits on board. The first carriage, Railway Firsts, highlights key milestones in the development of the network. The second, Wonderlab on Wheels, provides hands-on exhibits that help children aged 7-14 years old explore science and engineering in a fun and accessible way. Next, Your Railway Future shines a light on the less visible but vital roles that keep the railway moving, encouraging visitors to picture the wide range of careers available. The final carriage, the Partner Zone, offers a flexible platform for local groups, suppliers and education partners to share their stories and showcase new ideas.




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For over two decades, Icomera has kept you connected on the move, delivering seamless onboard connectivity.

Our networks have the power to fully integrate tens of thousands of vehicles into the cloud, paving the way for a bold new generation of safer, more efficient and sustainable transport solutions.



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