

**\*\*Press information for release 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013\*\***

## **The National Railway Museum invests to impress with its award-winning conference centre**

The National Railway Museum in York scooped the coveted 'Conference Venue of the Year' award at the 2013 Visit York Tourism Awards, held on Thursday 9 May.

During the 2012-13 financial year the Museum hosted 20,000 corporate hire visitors and received outstanding client testimonials, citing the quality of the food and level of service as exceeding all expectations.

In April 2013, the dedicated conference centre underwent refurbishment to further enhance the award-winning facilities. A branded entranceway, new furniture, unique catering serveries and striking floor-to-ceiling prints of nostalgic railway imagery have all enhanced the existing offer for business events.

The six conference suites have been re-named after some of the most revered locomotives in the Museum's collection, such as 'Mallard' and 'Rocket'. A competitive and flexible range of delegate packages are available and the versatile venue can accommodate between 2 – 140 guests for board meetings, away-days, launches and training seminars.

The refurbishment also follows the recent transformation of the iconic Station Hall into an immersive and nostalgic space, thanks to a £1.4 million construction and interpretation project, which represents the first major investment in the space since it was created.

Alicia Earls, Communications Manager – Events at the National Railway Museum, said: "2013 is a significant year in the development of our spaces and this all serves to add-value to our corporate and private events offer. The awards win highlights that unique venues are still highly-sought after for business events, as well as our commitment to providing the very best facilities in the city."

- Ends -

**For further information / pictures, please contact Alicia Earls - Communications Manager on 0207 942 4308 or email [alicia.earls@sciencemuseum.ac.uk](mailto:alicia.earls@sciencemuseum.ac.uk)**

### **Notes to editors**

- For general information regarding corporate events at the National Railway Museum please telephone 01904 686 226, e-mail [nrmevents@nrm.org.uk](mailto:nrmevents@nrm.org.uk) or visit [www.nrm.org.uk/venuehire](http://www.nrm.org.uk/venuehire)
- The Station Hall Enhancement Project was developed in 3 key phases of work. Phase 1 and Phase 2 were enabling works that were necessary to deliver Phase 3 the 'Station Hall Interpretation Project.'
- Phase 2 works involved major construction works (including demolitions) within the listed building. Justyna Snigurska, managed the project to develop the design to allow better visitor flow and the new Interpretative Vision within the restricted listed building requirements. New step ramp access, refurbishment to promenade floor and new Baffle Wall were constructed without affecting the original fabric of the building and preserving its unique character'.

- The overall costs for the redevelopment of Station Hall are in the region of £1.4 million. Station Hall costs include all the enabling, shunting and other activities carried out ahead of the construction work. The estimated cost breakdowns for the main phases are as follows:
  - phase 1 enabling works £520k
  - phase 2 construction £375k
  - phase 3 interpretation £560k
- Major funders for the Station Hall project include Yorventure, through funds generated by Yorwaste Ltd, the DCMS/ Wolfson fund, First Transpennine Express, Hornby and the Friends of the National Railway Museum.
- The National Railway Museum in York has the largest collection of railway objects in the world and attracts over 700,000 visitors per year.
- The National Railway Museum's collection includes over 300 locomotives and rolling stock, 628 coins and medals, 4899 pieces of railway uniform and costume, railway equipment, documents, records, artwork and railway related photographs.
- The National Railway Museum houses a world class collection of Royal trains, which includes a collection of Royal carriages, from those used by Queen Victoria to Queen Elizabeth II.
- The National Railway Museum's vast art collection comprises of 11,270 posters, 2,358 prints and drawings, 1052 paintings, and 1,750,000 photographs, many of which have never been on public display.
- The National Railway Museum forms part of the Science Museum Group, along with the Science Museum in London, the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) in Manchester, the National Media Museum in Bradford and the National Railway Museum in Shildon.

Additional images are available on request.