

Network Rail's new high output ballast cleaning system for the UK - update

Plasser UK's Mark Simmons reports on the latest progress with the system's different elements and machines.

Further to *Rail Infrastructure* Issue No: 113, the major elements of Network Rail's fifth High Output Ballast Cleaning System (HOBCS 5) have now all arrived in the UK. The RM 900 ballast cleaner, 09-2X/CM and MFS power wagons travelling from the Plasser & Theurer factory in Linz, Austria, to Network Rail's RIDC at High Marnham, joining the other elements of the system there on 25th October. As the accompanying photographs show, following the connecting up of the various elements, the testing and commissioning work has now commenced. *Photographs: Dave Arrowsmith.*



Above: The 09-2X/CM tamper in the high output ballast cleaning system formation.

Left: One of the MFS power wagons at the head of a rake of MFSs.



Above: Some of the 44 MFS wagons bask in the winter sunshine.

Left: The USP 5000 ballast regulator in action at the RIDC.



Left and above: The RM 900 ballast cleaner making its first cut on the section of third rail fitted track at High Marnham.