

## Railway Transport in Kent & Medway

- There are **15 railway transportation companies** in Kent employing almost **2,000 people**.
- Major rail passenger services from Kent to Europe include **Eurostar**, with stations at **Ashford International** and **Ebbsfleet International**. Further cross channel services exist from Folkestone through Eurotunnel's shuttle and freight train services.
- The new **High Speed 1** is a new high speed line connecting the Channel Tunnel with London. With the completion of the second stage in 2007, this link has been extended into London St Pancras, meaning greatly reduced travel times between London and Kent.
- In 2009 the Government established **High Speed 2 Ltd (HS2 Ltd)** with a costed and deliverable proposal for a new line from Euston, London to other major cities including; Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds.
- **Since November 2007, some 7 services to Paris and 5 to Brussels have been running from the new £100million Ebbsfleet International station near Dartford.** Ebbsfleet International is major transport hub providing fast services from Kent to London and major European destinations. As well as the existing European destinations available from Ashford, the opening of Ebbsfleet has increased the number of European destinations and offers faster travel times to London and Europe.
- In addition to being a transport hub, Ebbsfleet will be a whole commercial development, including 5.5 million square feet of available commercial space.
- In December 2009 domestic trains were introduced to run on high speed 1. These trains, manufactured by Hitachi, will be assembled and maintained at Ashford where the company employs nearly 100 people.
- For further information on the Railway Transport sector in Kent and its company base, please visit [www.locateinkent.com](http://www.locateinkent.com) or contact us on 00 44 1732 520700 / [enquiries@locateinkent.com](mailto:enquiries@locateinkent.com).