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“In recent years, leading social enterprise ECT has created a community rail business based on our ventures; Dartmoor Railway, Weardale Railway and industrial railway specialists; RMS Locotec. Particularly significant in this process has been the support of communities and local councils in Devon and the North East.

Dartmoor and Weardale railways have a great future as part of the tourism and leisure industry of their areas with the potential to provide wider community rail services in the future. RMS is a small but significant part of the industrial railway sector in the UK.

Furthermore we believe that the government’s community rail strategy will provide increased opportunities for small scale community focused rail operations.

However it has proved increasingly difficult for ECT to provide the necessary management focus and investment. Accordingly, following a thorough review of our rail businesses, ECT has decided to focus on its core activities of providing high quality, environmental and community transport services.

ECT is therefore seeking new ownership and investment for its rail businesses. We believe that they have a great future and we already have a number of parties interested in taking on the challenge and opportunity.”

ENDS

The ECT Group is one of the UK’s leading social enterprises providing a range of high quality public services including transport, health and environmental services with a £55 million plus turnover and over 1,300 staff. ECT is committed to incorporating social responsibility, environmental sustainability and economic viability into all that it does. For more information about ECT Group, visit www.ectgroup.co.uk

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