

# Press Release

26 February 2014

## **Awards success for pushing the boundaries of technology and sustainability**

CrossCountry's use of technological advances to benefit rail users and the environment were both recognised at a prestigious rail awards ceremony in London on Thursday 20 February.

At the first ever UK Rail Industry Awards, CrossCountry's work to help customers plan and book their rail journeys for the cheapest price was awarded the prize for Mobile Technology; and the company's new traincrew accommodation at Birmingham New Street "The Lamp Block" was awarded the prize for Environmental & Sustainability.

Over the last five years CrossCountry has been leading Britain's rail industry in developing new technology to make rail travel easier and cheaper for customers. CrossCountry now offers customers a smartphone App that provides full journey information and ticket retailing services; industry-leading systems to purchase Advance tickets and reserve seats on a CrossCountry train up to ten minutes before its departure from any station during its journey; m-tickets that can be sent straight to a mobile phone and e-tickets that customers can print off at home or work to avoid queuing at stations.

The Lamp Block traincrew accommodation and offices at Birmingham New Street were developed in partnership with Network Rail as part of the station redevelopment, and offer a truly eco-friendly workplace in the city centre. The state-of-the-art accommodation features solar panels and thermal tubes to reduce energy use; a building management system to monitor and optimise power use to demand; attenuation tanks to preserve rainwater; and a roof covered with low-maintenance plants and grass to improve drainage.

CrossCountry's managing director, Andy Cooper, said: "These wins are further recognition of the good work of so many people at CrossCountry. The Lamp Block set new standards and shows how railway accommodation can be both functional and environmentally friendly, and our harnessing technology has made real improvements for customers to help them plan and book their journeys with us."

**CrossCountry facts and figures below.**

**For more information feel free to contact us on 0121 200 6115 or by email to [communications@crosscountrytrains.co.uk](mailto:communications@crosscountrytrains.co.uk)**

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**CrossCountry facts and figures:**

STATIONS SERVED: 118

ROUTE MILES: 1,650

WEEKDAY SERVICES: 298

PASSENGERS CARRIED: Over 31 million passenger journeys each year

ANNUAL TRAIN MILEAGE: Approximately 16 million

EMPLOYEES: 1,692

LONGEST TRAIN SERVICE: 08.20 Aberdeen to Penzance (774 miles)