

Consultancy Services to the Rail Industry



AKONA

Recruitment, training & deployment through partnership

Capacity and capability

Akona specialises in the provision of bespoke, advisory and consultancy services to the rail industry; In essence we aim to introduce specialist professionals with engineering, construction, technical and safety-critical expertise and experience, to organisations and statutory bodies seeking to build (new) or to rejuvenate whole or partial rail networks and supporting infrastructures.

Our integrated services include the recruitment and operational deployment of personnel with transferable skills in support of key areas of the industry. Our 'Centre of Excellence' training programmes help to build and develop internal skills to achieve growth and scale at a pace that suits your project needs.

With exclusive access to former MOD seeking a 2nd Career. Akona's proven 'Mentorship' programme enables clients to build efficient, effective engineering teams that grow and flourish, guaranteeing longevity - and scalable reduction when needed.



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Akona provided a keen enthusiasm and expert knowledge to create a bespoke training package for TFL/RFLi.

Akona executed all stages of planning, preparation and delivery on time and were professional throughout.

We wouldn't hesitate to recommend Akona to anyone and consider Akona an industry leader in their field of expertise.”

Max Gaskell OLE Assurance Manager ATC (Crossrail)



Rail infrastructure specialists

Rail infrastructure specialists Akona Limited provide a unique and innovative approach to training and competence management across the full range of fully accredited services, including:

- » Safety Critical Competencies
- » Health, Safety, Quality and Environment (HSQE)
- » Overhead Line Equipment (OLE) Maintenance
- » Overhead Line Equipment Construction (OLEC)
- » Management Recruitment
- » On-Track Personnel resources
- » Recruitment of Local Labour
- » Apprentice Training and Qualifications
- » Video streaming for On-Track / on-Location training
- » Video streaming for Surveys and Progress monitoring
- » Assessor Qualifications
- » Complete Competence Management
- » Train The Trainer Qualification

Partnership arrangements, with local networked recruitment resources, combined with the very best skilled and experienced companies, create synergies that surpass and exceed traditional levels of achievement and contract attainment.

As an approved National Skills Academy Rail (NSAR) and Network Rail provider Akona has, for more than a decade, excelled in the recruitment, training and qualification of design and on-site overhead line engineers and rail (Safety Critical) personnel for many of the high-speed and metro-rail projects, in the UK and overseas.

Akona's training courses in OLE construction and maintenance have been delivered to many UK 'Principle Contractors', including ATC Crossrail (CRL), Transport for London (TfL), Rail for London Infrastructure (RFLI), Balfour Beatty (UK and USA), Amey, Volker Rail and SPL (Deutschland) and second tier controllers.



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Akona prepared all training material for OLEC and OLEM competences for apprentices, technicians and engineers and executed all the stages of planning, timely delivery and competence assessment in a professional and efficient manner. I would not hesitate to recommend Akona to railway industry partners and I consider Akona an industry leader in their field of expertise.

Aluwis Matanga RfLI (Discipline Infrastructure Maintenance Engineer | Electrification & HV Plant)



Akona Consultancy

Bespoke customised qualifications are unregulated qualifications written and developed by Akona in partnership with an Educational Awarding organisation. These bespoke qualifications contain measurable learning outcomes and assessment criteria, with relevant assessment methods. The qualifications are the intellectual property of the qualification provider/ employer and are unregulated, so will not appear on the register of regulated qualifications. Instead, it will have our recognition, meaning your qualification is fit for purpose and quality assured through an Awarding Body.

Case studies of our bespoke design and development services

Akona's delivered bespoke course development for several UK and European clients. In many cases these services have been aimed towards improving the quality of and the efficiency of installation and maintenance of Overhead Lines systems. These training services, deliver enhancements to any existing training models and remits issues of assurances onto the end user. Case studies of bespoke products produced by Akona can be found enclosed in this brochure.

International recognition – 'Caltrain Project' Balfour Beatty US

Innovation is key to Akona approach we are therefore proud to work alongside Balfour Beatty US on the Californian 'Caltrain Project'. This commissioned Akona to design, develop and deliver a comprehensive bespoke Overhead Contact Systems (OCS) maintenance training programmes. The syllabus addressed key aspects of OCS maintenance for both Senior engineers, Management, Technicians and Control room staff. The following bespoke OCS units covered:

- » Non-Intrusive, Preventive, Corrective, High Intrusive, and Earthing & Bonding maintenance
- » Hand Back of Overhead Lines Systems
- » Reconstruction of Overhead Contact Systems following a de-wirement situation
- » Management of DE-wirement incidents

In addition to the development of bespoke OCS systems courses. The company has also designed and produced video media OCS safety awareness films. These productions were aimed at raising the safety issues for Elementary schools, High schools, and Local communities located in the area of the Caltrain corridor.

Key projects supported in this way by Akona, include:

- » Great Western Electrification Project (GWEP)
- » North West Electrification Project (NWEF)
- » Northern HUB Programmes
- » Liverpool Lime Street Remodelling Project
- » WCML S&C Renewal Work bank CP5 & CP6
- » S&C North Alliance & Central Rail Systems Alliance
- » ECML S&C Renewal Work bank CP5 & CP6
- » Leeds Station Capacity Project Platforms 0-6
- » Electrical & Power in Plant (E&P) Engineering



Case studies



Central Rail Systems Alliance (Track Renewal Framework) CP6 & CP7 – 2019 to Present Day

We currently provide Overhead Line and E&P site planning, management and construction teams to fulfil a very extensive and demanding work schedule throughout the Northern East, East Coast Main Line, East Midlands and North West & Central routes. We have accident and incident free success rate over the CP6 control period demonstrating our ability to deliver projects safely for our client.

Leeds Station Capacity Project (Platform 0 - 6) – 2019 to 2021

Between November 2019 and March 2021, Akona Concepts played a pivotal role in supporting CRSA during the execution of the Leeds Station Capacity Project. The scheme aimed to enhance capacity at the station and improve rail systems and building infrastructure, notably including the implementation of the new Platform 0. As an integral part of the Transpennine route upgrade at Leeds Station, our team were involved in implementing modifications to the existing overhead line equipment (OLE) within the intricate station area. The project encompassed extensive OLE installation and modifications, entailing adjustments to the track layout for seamless integration.



Akona Concepts assumed responsibility for managing the OLE aspect of the project, delivering a range of comprehensive services including OLE management, supervision, and linesmen deployment. Effective planning and coordination were paramount to synchronise our activities with other railway disciplines, particularly track, civils, and signalling, especially during disruptive station closures.

Throughout the project duration, our team demonstrated expertise and diligence in navigating the complexities of railway infrastructure, ensuring seamless collaboration and alignment with the broader project objectives. This collaborative effort culminated in the successful delivery of the Leeds Station Capacity Project, contributing to the enhancement of railway operations and passenger experience at the station.



York Station Third Line Project – 2023 to Present Day

The York Station Third Line Project represents a pivotal phase in a £54 million investment endeavour aimed at augmenting and improving capacity at York Station between 2023 and 2027, ultimately facilitating a third line upgrade. Akona Concepts currently deploy retained delivery teams tasked with executing an £11 million portfolio of overhead line enhancement works.

Under our construction management leadership, the project entails the installation of foundations, main steel structures, SPS (Small Part Steel), wire transfers, and associated wiring activities. Our dedicated teams are

committed to delivering these critical enhancements over the course of the next few years, ensuring seamless integration and operational effectiveness for the upgraded third line at York Station.

Darlington Station Capacity Project

In the comprehensive Darlington Station Capacity project, part of a £15 million multidisciplinary scheme, we currently offer our expertise in retained Overhead Line competent personnel. Ranging from OLEC 2 to OLEC 5, our skilled team played a crucial role in enhancing the project's execution.

Our responsibilities encompassed the installation of approximately 28 610mm CHS piles and 28 OLE structures, alongside the implementation of SPS (Small Part Steel) and the rewiring of approximately 3400 meters, all aimed at fortifying the resilience and reliability of the Network Rail Infrastructure.

Furthermore, our Akona OLE Engineers took charge of providing comprehensive quality assurance, ensuring meticulous hand back procedures through the utilisation of eviFile technology. This commitment to excellence and attention to detail underscored our dedication to delivering high-quality results and contributing to the overall success of the project.



Partnerships and innovation

Innovation is key to Akona approach we are therefore proud to work alongside media specialists, who have a track-record of achievement in the rail industry. They have completed training productions for both Crossrail, Transport for London (TfL) and Balfour Beatty (US) Caltrain Project.

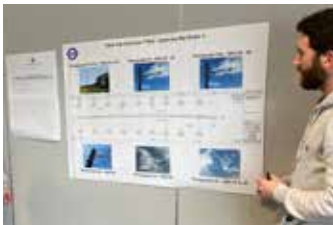
With 'Sentinel' accredited camera crew and editing staff, they are able to provide Akona's clients with both unique 'classroom' and 'on-site' training solutions - traditional 'front-of-class' tutorials supported by trackside footage which can show training work actually being completed on-location.

In addition to the 'live-streaming' of training sessions, Akona can also provide animation

and CGI graphics to enhance existing training materials. The company also has a team of dedicated UAV 'drone' camera operators, experienced in working trackside.

Akona lists an impressive range of completed projects including:

- » Training videos to support working instructions on OHLE disciplines,
- » Maintenance training videos on Crossrail's 18 underground stations and tunnelling system,
- » CGI graphics and live-action films to enhance a series of 'de-wirement' training courses.



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