

Francis Paonessa
Managing Director, Infrastructure Projects



Francis joined Network Rail as Managing Director for Infrastructure Projects in July 2014 where he is accountable for the delivery of over £5bn per annum of new infrastructure on the operational railway.

He previously worked at Bombardier Transportation where he led the combined new build and services business in the UK, manufacturing and maintaining mainline and underground trains for the UK and for export.

Francis started his career with the warship builder, Vosper Thornycroft, initially as a Mechanical Design Engineer. He undertook a number of line and project management roles prior to his appointment as Technical Director, and subsequently Managing Director, of the Portsmouth Shipbuilding Facility.



He studied Aeronautical Engineering at Manchester University, where he also completed his PhD in Fluid Mechanics.

Francis is a Chartered Engineer and a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers