

## More CAF dmus for Northern Ireland



NORTHERN IRELAND Railways (NIR) has awarded CAF, Spain, a £105 million contract to supply a further 20 three-car dmus. The class 4000 will be a development of the class 3000 dmu, 23 of which were supplied by CAF in 2005, and will have seating capacity for 209 passengers. The first class 4000 will be delivered in 2011 with the final train due to enter service in 2013, allowing the withdrawal of NIR's older dmus.

NIR says it is one of the fastest-growing railways in Europe, and it has witnessed a 60% increase in passenger numbers since 2002, which is largely attributed to the investment in new trains. A new train maintenance depot is being constructed at Adelaide near Belfast, and platforms will also be extended across the network to allow the operation of six-car trains.