



## New Port Laoise traincare depot opens

**P**ort Laoise traincare depot, Iarnród Éireann's new €69.5 million facility for maintaining the Intercity railcar fleet, opened in July 2008.

The new €400 million Intercity railcar fleet is currently being rolled out across the network and the state of the art facility on the outskirts of Portlaoise, just off the main Dublin-Cork line, will ensure the highest standards of maintenance will be delivered.

For maintenance staff to

perform their duties on the new fleet of Intercity trains, it is necessary to have an array of support equipment in place to assist them in their activities, to ensure downtime is kept to a minimum and that they are in a safe working environment.

There are areas on vehicles where maintenance or repair work is required that presents staff with access difficulties that can be unsafe.

Irish Rail approached Semmco who, in partnership with Zacher, are experienced in both

the European aircraft and rail industries at providing safe solutions to all access areas on aircraft and rail vehicles.

Semmco has provided a number of mobile access platforms at the depot that have improved safety and accessibility for staff undertaking maintenance and repair work for the Intercity railcar fleet.

The requirement for a robust access solution for maintenance staff is especially pertinent in the light of current legislation regarding working at heights.

The Work at Height Regulations 2005 place new legal responsibilities on employers to ensure that equipment such as ladders and platforms which is used to facilitate working at any height above ground level minimises the risk of falling and offers sufficient protection to workers.

Falls are the biggest cause of death in the workplace, accounting for 67 fatal accidents and nearly 400 major injuries in 2003/4.