In cooperation with Windhoff AG (manufacturer of the powered rail vehicle "MPV" on which the catenary installation machine is mounted), Zeck GmbH supplied four catenary installation machines to OLE & Distribution Alliance for the renewal of the contact wire of the West Coast Main Line (between London and Manchester).

Since 2001, the machines have been working 6 days a week to the utmost satisfaction of the customer and in June 2002, they were already able to celebrate a first important event: the 500th wire run.

In the meantime, these catenary installation machines were rewarded the Quality in Construction Award 2003 for "Research & Development" (see excerpt of the trade magazine "Construction News" of 26.03.2003).

Research & Development (plant and equipment), sponsored by Intermat
The three finalists in this category varied so enormously in the scope and nature of their projects that the judges were almost at a loss to draw any useful comparisons between them.

What the judges said:
"In terms of the magnitude of the achievement, this is phenomenal. How come our rail industry has earned itself such a poor reputation when there's stuff like this going on?"  
A superb application of existing technology."

OLE & Distribution Alliance

One of the main criteria for the new train was fast travel speed. With rail privatisation, most of the sidings along the route had been sold off to realise their land values — any re-wiring train had to get off the track quickly at the end of its working day to allow scheduled services to occupy the track, and without the sidings, fast travel speed was vital.  
Now fully operational, the new train will complete each single working run in 5.25 hours. Not bad compared to the previous average time of 38 hours.

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