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The Shift2Rail Newsletter

Delivering the railway systems of the future

Issue #2

Shift2Rail launches the Women in Rail Research & Innovation Award

The Shift2Rail community counts a number of highly skilled women contributing daily to delivering the innovative solutions for the European railway systems of the future. By launching the Women in Rail Research and Innovation Award, the S2R JU aims to reward a woman who contributes to breaking obstacles for female representatives working within the Rail research and innovation community and to achieving the S2R Multi-Annual Action Plan - Executive View.

On Women's Day 2018, the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking (S2R JU) announces the first edition of the 'Women in Rail Research & Innovation Award'. With this initiative, S2R JU honours its commitment for gender equality as signatory of [the Declaration to ensure equal opportunities for women and men in the transport sector](#).

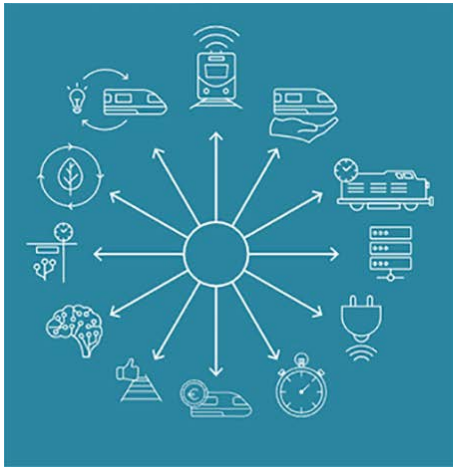
The laureate will be a woman leading by example, having demonstrated her professional capacity to move the railway industry forward. Shift2Rail will bestow the Award on Tuesday 18 September 2018, during InnoTrans, the European leading trade fair for transport technology.

The railway research and innovation community gathers highly qualified women amongst its stakeholders. However, despite a recent marginal growth in women working in Science and Technology, the percentage of women in transport is still very low in Europe: only 22% of transport workers are women and only 14% are in rail and road, [according to Eurostat figures from 2017](#).

Together with other initiatives launched in the context of the '[EU Platform for Change – Women in Transport](#)', this Award aims to raise the profile of the issue of women representation in the rail sector. Shift2Rail and the other members of this platform are committed to working for non-discrimination and equality between women and men in transport.

The Award is supported by Commissioner for Mobility and Transport, Ms Violeta Bulc. The Jury that will select the winners comprises Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the Transport and Tourism Committee Karima Delli, Shift2Rail Executive Director Carlo M. Borghini and senior officials of the European Commission's transport directorate, among others. For further information, visit the [S2R website](#).

This first "Women in Rail Research and Innovation Award" is not the only S2R initiative to recognise talent! The S2R JU will launch three awards in relation to the ongoing research and innovation activities performed by the broad S2R community. This will be announced on 16 April at the Transport Research Arena conference in Vienna. In addition, the award of the S2R PHD grants, part of the Call 2018, will take place at InnoTrans too. This offers support to young researchers to allow them to continue working to devise cutting-edge solutions; innovating the European railway eco-system.



S2R Call for proposals Now published

Deadline: 24 April 2018



Shift2Rail to co-fund 18 rail innovation projects worth €155.3 million

Shift2Rail JU launched its Call for Proposals 2018, a new funding opportunity for research and innovation activities in railways worth €155.3 million overall. Research institutes, companies and associations, including beyond the rail sector, can submit their proposals until 24 April.

New projects are set to enter the Shift2Rail (S2R) programme cutting-edge research and innovation activities, in all the areas of the rail eco-system, including passenger and freight trains, IT applications, infrastructure, services for passengers, and cross-cutting innovation activities for rail.

The Shift2Rail Call for Proposals 2018 includes 18 rail research and innovation topics for a total value of €155.3 million co-funded by the S2R JU up to €78.7 million. 11 topics for an estimated total value of €21.1 million, co-funded up to €19.1 million, are opened to non-S2R Members. The remaining 7 topics, for a total value of €134.1 million, will be co-funded up to €59.6 million by the S2R JU.

These new projects will join the 48 that exist currently within the S2R initiative. Applicants can submit their proposals up to 24 [April through the H2020 Portal](#).

Henrik Hololei, Director-General for Mobility and Transport at the European Commission says: "Innovation and market-driven solutions are what Europe's rail sector needs! With today's call for proposals the S2R JU has committed more than 50% of its Programme funds. This demonstrates that the sector is capable of fast-paced work on innovation. The solutions developed under [this] call will pave the way for more attractive services for passengers and freight. I am looking forward to seeing them!"

Shift2Rail has produced [two videos](#) to explain rules, budget and eligibility criteria of the Call as well as to address questions applicants might have on both financial and legal aspects. [On the Shift2Rail website](#), a Q&A is regularly updated.

The integral text of the S2R Call for Proposals is available in the Annexes I and II of the [Shift2Rail Annual Work Plan 2018 and on the H2020 Portal](#).



Shift2Rail hosted more than 150 professionals at its Info Day 2017

Shift2Rail (S2R) organised an Info Day on 12 December 2017 in Brussels to present the progress of its activities and explain its funding opportunities, gathered under the S2R Call for Proposals 2018. More than 150 representatives from research institutions, large companies and SMEs from all over Europe attended the event. The sessions were webcast, so many stakeholders who were not able to travel due to adverse weather conditions could also follow the conference.

Carlo M. Borghini, Executive Director of Shift2Rail, explained the scope of the event: “The Info Day aims to allow a two-way dialogue between interested parties and the Shift2Rail JU. It is also a great opportunity for stakeholders to meet their counterparts, spurring companies and research centres to build consortia and send their proposals to Shift2Rail. Eventually, they could be selected and have their ideas funded for the future”.

In the morning session, Shift2Rail Coordinators from each of the five Innovation Programmes (IPs) and Cross Cutting Activities (CCA) showed the progress made by S2R projects to date and presented the details of the Call 2018 in each field of innovation.

In the afternoon, the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) Berlin-Brandenburg with the support of the European Railway Clusters Initiative (ERCI) organised a Matchmaking Event to provide attendees, especially SMEs, with the opportunity to meet potential project partners for the Shift2Rail Open Calls 2018. Participants discussed means of cooperation in over 80 bilateral meetings.

Attendees also had the opportunity to ask technical questions to the Shift2Rail Legal and Finance officers, and to meet the Innovation Programme managers at the S2R ‘market place’. To learn more on the Shift2Rail Info Day, follow these links:

- [Presentations from the conference](#)
- Shift2Rail Info Day 2017 [pictures](#) and [video](#)
- [Q&A from the event](#)



TRA 2018: Shift2Rail @ the European Transport Research Arena conference

Shift2Rail will display its activities at the Transport Research Arena (TRA) conference, on 16-19 April 2018 in Vienna, Austria. S2R projects will present 24 scientific papers at the scientific sessions.

In its seventh edition, TRA expects more than 3,000 transport experts from academy, industry and public authorities to discuss new mobility solutions for society, economy and the environment.

During the event, Shift2Rail will launch its innovation capabilities map: An interactive graphic document that will help explain how the JU works to deliver on the 12 innovation capabilities of the railways ecosystem of the future as defined by Shift2Rail in its [Multi-Annual Action Plan – Executive View \(Part A\)](#).

Aspects reflected on the map will include areas of work such as 'automated train operations', 'mobility as a service', 'logistics on demand', 'more value from data' and how they will contribute to deliver the railways of the future. The interactive artwork will be available on the Shift2Rail website at a later stage.

The Shift2Rail stand at TRA will be interactive and projects will display concrete results through a set of videos. Some projects will also hold live presentations at the stand. The next Shift2Rail newsletter will

include a detailed report on the outcomes of this event.

Find out more about the Shift2Rail programme at TRA [here](#).



Shift2Rail JU updates/key events:

- **Shift Freight to Rail: Midterm event for S2R IP5 projects from Call 2015-2016 & final event for Smart-Rail IP5 Lighthouse project - 18 April 2018 - Waggon-31 - Vienna, Austria.** This event will be an opportunity to present preliminary and final results of the Shift2Rail projects focussed on innovating the freight railways eco-system in Europe. More information and registration [here](#).
- **Shift2Rail Lighthouse event – 19 April 2018 - Waggon-31 - Vienna, Austria.** The Shift2Rail lighthouse projects will present their final results in Vienna with a joint ceremony. These projects started in May 2015 under the Horizon 2020 Transport Programme, while the JU was still in its ramp-up phase, and are administratively managed by the European Commission.
- **Steering Committees for the five Shift2Rail Innovation Programmes (IPs) and Cross-Cutting Activities (CCA) met in Brussels last January.** More than a hundred representatives from European companies and research organisations participated to the six Steering Committee meetings held throughout the whole month at the Shift2Rail premises. Each IP/CCA has a Steering Committee, deciding on the way forward and ensuring coordination with the other IPs/CCA. On this occasion, stakeholders contributed with input to the S2R JU for two S2R working documents: the Annual Work Plan 2019, and the Multi-Annual Action Plan, Part B – that will be ready for publication in the coming months. Participants also discussed a strategy to disseminate the first research results achieved under the Shift2Rail initiative.
- Shift2Rail was honoured to receive the **HaCon's HAFAS Gold Medal 2017** as 'the most international HAFAS research project'. Lars Deiterding, Head for Freight Transport and Logistics at HaCon and Member of Shift2Rail Governing Board, gave the medal in person to Shift2Rail Executive Director Carlo M. Borghini. Watch the video of the moment [here](#).
- IP3 projects **Scode, In2Track, In2Smart**, focussing on rail infrastructure innovation, held their [midterm event on 24 January 2018 in Paris](#). The S2R JU opened the meeting and representatives from the projects presented their work on data architecture, enhanced switches and crossings, tracks,

monitoring technique and new materials and components, among other areas.

- On [25 January 2018, the Safe4RAIL IP1 project held its mid-term conference in Prague](#). An example of good collaboration between a Members' project (CONNECTA) and an Open Call project, the mid-term conference attracted, with the presence of the S2R JU, more than 70 participants to the event, including members of the project consortium, as well as railway suppliers, manufacturers, safety experts and authorities of train control and communication systems.

Work of Safe4Rail focusses on the development of next generation of the Train Control & Management System (TCMS), known as the 'train's brain', as it controls the main features of these vehicles.

- **Vacancies at Shift2Rail: The JU is currently looking for two Seconded National Experts (SNEs). Deadline** for applications is 30/03/2018, 17h00 Brussels Time. For more information, please click [here](#).



Upcoming events

- 12 March:** Middle East Rail – Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- 19-20 March:** High-level Ministerial Meeting on Multimodality – Sofia, Bulgaria
- 20 March:** Digital Railways: Present Technologies, Future Trends – Brussels, Belgium
- 26 March:** S2R JU Governing Board meeting
- 28 March:** UIC Global Conference on Signalling – Milan, Italy
- 16-19 April:** Transport Research Arena (TRA) Conference – Vienna, Austria
- 18-19 April:** World Metro & Light Rail Congress – Bilbao, Spain
- 24 April:** Deadline for applications to the Shift2Rail Call for Proposals 2018
- 25-27 April:** TEN-T Days 2018 – Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 18-21 September:** InnoTrans – Berlin, Germany

Shift2Rail in the news

- [“Europe ploughs resources into digital railways”](#), Financial Times (paywall).
- [“Research theme analysis report – Transport Safety”](#) – A report produced by European Commission's DG MOVE.
- [“Shift2Rail 2018 calls for proposals launched”](#) – Railway Pro.

- [“European projects on track” – SNCF Avancées.](#) (In French) [Bilingual English/French print version](#)
- [“Safety In-Depth Focus 2018” – Global Railway Review.](#) Featuring Shift2Rail projects Dynafreight and FFL4E.
 - [“£680,000 project to make maintenance more effective on the railways” - EurekAlert!](#) Featuring S2R project SMaRTE
 - [“3D printing to be explored in University of Huddersfield railway vehicle research project”](#) – TCT Magazine. Featuring Shift2Rail project RUN2RAIL.
 - [“EU budget ‘should help speed up research for decarbonisation of transport’ – ITS International.](#)
 - [“CEIT works in the European railway of the future”](#) (In Spanish) – **El Diario Vasco.**

