



Press Release

Brussels, 03 May 2018

Shift2Rail Call for Proposals 2018 participation results

Europe's Railway Research and Innovation performers prove strong interest in deepening their collaboration as the 2018 Shift2Rail Call for Proposals prompts requests for projects worth €185.4 million

In answer to its [2018 Call for Proposals](#), the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking received 39 proposals for a total value of €185.4 million and a funding request of €108.2 million (almost 40% more compared to the available funding). 32 proposals were submitted as Open Calls, with a request for funding nearly three times the available Budget; out of 238 Open Calls' participants, 27% are SMEs.

After this Call for Proposals, Shift2Rail will have invested in Research and Innovation activities cumulatively €490 million, more than half of its 2014-2020 Budget. The Shift2Rail Programme is now consolidating its position to move the railway sector forward, towards a major system transformation to contribute to Europe's sustainable and digital mobility.

Henrik Hololei, European Commission's Director General for Mobility and Transport, reinforced his support to Shift2Rail stating, *"Development of new technologies is key aspect to substantially increase the competitiveness of the European railway sector. I am thoroughly convinced that supporting innovative and bold ideas as well as encouraging researchers to work together would significantly boost Shift2Rail's ambitious goal to meet future mobility needs and to create cutting-edge solutions for market uptake. I am very much looking forward to seeing these new developments implemented in the near future"*.

Carlo Borghini, Executive Director of the Shift2Rail JU, highlights that this year's applications underscore Shift2Rail's progress in accelerating the competitiveness of the European railway systems. *"At this point, we are entering an interesting phase with some of the projects approaching system prototype demonstrations in operational environment. At the same time, new and radical ideas yielded from Open Calls will provide the foundation for future research"*.

The S2R Programme Office, supported by a renewed pool of highly qualified independent experts, has already started the process for the evaluation of the proposals, expected to be concluded by the end of June 2018. Applicants may expect being informed on the outcome of the evaluations in July 2018. The R&I actions related to this Call are expected to start before the end of the year.

About Shift2Rail

Shift2Rail is the first European rail Public Private Partnership tasked with developing strategically focused research and innovation (R&I) and market-driven solutions, integrating these to create the railway systems of the future. With a total value of €920 million for the period 2014-2020, funded through the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union, Shift2Rail is promoting the competitiveness of the European rail industry and ensuring the attractiveness of rail as a safe and sustainable low carbon transport mode. This in order to meet the changing transport/mobility needs of EU citizens and the economy.