



## Press Release

Brussels, 17 October 2018

# Shift2Rail awards 19 grants for its Call for Proposals 2018

***19 projects worth €152.6 million will be funded under the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking 2018 Call for Proposals for Research & Innovation activities. Shift2Rail's co-funding will amount up to €77.3 million. The new projects aim to accelerate the transition towards the next generation of railway systems in Europe.***

The Shift2Rail JU Members will undertake 7 of the new projects selected in the Call for Proposals 2018. Members' activities will have a total value of €134.1 million, co-funded by S2R up to €59.6 million.

12 additional Open Call projects, open for applications to any entity in the EU and associated Horizon 2020 countries, have been selected for funding. These projects have a total value of €18.5 million, 95.7% of which will be funded by the European Union.

In total, 185 participants will develop new solutions for railway systems under the 2018 S2R Call for Proposals. SMEs represent 31.5% of the entities selected in the Open Call projects.

Henrik Hololei, Director-General for Mobility and Transport at the European Commission, is convinced that the new projects will build on the first Shift2Rail results paving the way to the next generation of railways: "This is a crucial opportunity to invest in projects that will make railways safer, more flexible and more reliable but also cheaper to maintain. Innovation is essential for rail to become the preferred transportation option for tomorrow", he says.

Carlo Borghini, Executive Director of the Shift2Rail JU, expressed his high expectations for the selected projects: "We are entering an interesting phase with some of the projects approaching system prototype demonstrations, testing the results from 'paper' research in real-life conditions. Some of them will also try to implement radical new ideas. We want to boost research activities while also supporting disruptive innovation to advance railway systems".

After this Call for Proposals, Shift2Rail will have cumulatively invested €490 million in Research & Innovation activities, which corresponds to more than half of its 2014-2020 Budget.

The new selected projects will build up on the results of past projects. Shift2Rail showed at InnoTrans in September 2018 more than 20 cutting-edge initial demonstrations for key technologies, such as connected trams, moving block over ETCS for mainline networks, intelligent freight terminals and video gates, obstacle detection devices, and more. You can find some more information on the S2R InnoTrans demonstrations [here](#).

## **On the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking (S2R JU)**

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, ensuring the attractiveness of rail as a safe and

sustainable low carbon transport mode. This way, Shift2Rail aims to meet the changing transport/mobility needs of EU citizens and the economy.

**The S2R JU is looking forward to successfully implementing new S2R projects and to demonstrating with its Members and the sector at large the potential for innovative projects to deliver a bright future for railways.**

**More information (link):**

<http://www.shift2rail.org>

[https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/rail\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/rail_en)

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