



Press Release

Brussels, 23 October 2020

Memorandum of Understanding signed between Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking and the Canadian Urban Transit Research & Innovation Consortium (CUTRIC)

The signature of the Memorandum of Understanding took place on Friday 23 October, during the [Shift2Rail Innovation Days](#) in Brussels.

CUTRIC is a non-profit innovation consortium whose vision is to make Canada a global leader in low-carbon smart mobility, by focusing on technology development, integration and standardization vis-à-vis low-carbon propulsion systems, smart vehicle systems, data-driven analytics in mobility, and cybersecurity in transportation. CUTRIC wants to achieve these goals through industry-led collaborative research and large-scale technology integration trials.

The objective of this new cooperation is to promote international cooperation between rail Research & Innovation and Industry on environmentally friendly and energy-efficient transport modes in order to contribute to global decarbonisation.

"This Memorandum of Understanding is very important for us because it is a key opportunity to collaborate at international scale with industry on low carbon mobility Research & Innovation to enhance the leverage effect of what we do in Europe and to deliver on the European Green Deal objectives", explains Mr. Carlo Borghini, Executive Director of Shift2Rail.

The cooperation will start during the ongoing programming period under Horizon 2020, and will continue in the new programming period that is expected to start in the second half of 2021 under Horizon Europe. To kick off this collaboration, Shift2Rail will contribute to the [CUTRIC Rail Conference](#) on 23 November 2020 to contribute to global discussions on energy efficiency, alternative materials, rail and big data for operational optimization, and much more.

Commenting on the new agreement, President and CEO of CUTRIC, Dr. Josipa Petrunić, says *"this joint undertaking is a prime example of the international innovation economy using collaboration, research and analytics to further the global goals of reducing carbon emissions, improving energy efficiency, and providing better transit for all."*

Shift2Rail believes that rail can become the backbone of the future sustainable carbon-neutral mobility and transport system, and working together with CUTRIC, whose focus is on low-carbon smart mobility, will make a significant contribution to achieving this.

About 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.

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