

Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking (EU-RAIL)

13th MEETING
OF THE EU-RAIL GOVERNING BOARD

17 July 2024

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Online Meeting

PRESENT:

European Union, represented by the European Commission	FITCH Keir, DG MOVE	Chair
	GENTILI Andrea, DG RTD	Co-Chair
	CLEUREN John, DG RTD	Observer
	WILLIAMS Mihaela, DG MOVE	Observer
ADIF	VILLALMANZO David-Ibán	Alternate
ALSTOM	FRENCH Richard	Representative
AŽD	PAVEL Michal	Alternate
ČESKÉ DRÁHY	PETR Jindra	Alternate
DEUTSCHE BAHN	MARXEN Ralf	Representative
DLR	MEYER ZU HÖRSTE Michael	Alternate
European Smart Green Rail Joint Venture (eSGR JV)	JIMÉNEZ Noemi	Representative

FSI	PIFFERI Davide	Alternate
HITACHI RAIL	TROMBETTA Antonella	Representative
INDRA TALGO	MERLE Leyre	Alternate
JERNBANEDIREKTORATE (Norwegian Rail Directorate)	SAETHRE Preben	Representative
KNORR-BREMSE	HILSE Hans-Christian	Representative
ÖBB	STROHMEIER Flora	Alternate
NS/PRO RAIL	VOET Tijmen	Alternate
SIEMENS MOBILITY	KAMINSKY Ralf	Alternate
SNCF	CHERON Christophe	Representative
STRUKTON	SAMSON Henk	Alternate
THALES	JOURDAN Amaury	Representative
TRAFIKVERKET	OLSSON Bo	Representative
European Union Agency for Railway (ERA)	DOPPELBAUER Josef	Observer
Chair of the SRG	HALTUF Miroslav	Observer

EU-RAIL	TRAVAINI Giorgio	Executive Director
	CHATGEORGIADIS Vasileios	Head of Corporate Services
	TORRES Anna Maria	Observer
	GONZÁLEZ Isaac	Observer

LIST OF DECISIONS:

The following decision was taken by the Board:

- GB Decision n°013/2024 approving the ranked lists of innovation actions selected for funding under the Europe's Rail call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2024-01

OVERVIEW OF DISCUSSIONS:

INTRODUCTION

The 13th extraordinary meeting of Europe's Rail Governing Board was chaired by Mr. Keith FITCH (European Commission, DG MOVE).

1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chair welcomed participants to the Governing Board meeting, which was held exclusively online, and thanked them for their attendance.

He checked with the secretariat whether the required quorum for the meeting was in order, which was confirmed (20 out of 25 private Members were represented)¹.

The Chair indicated that all participants should have duly filled in the Conflict-of-Interest declarations and provided it to the secretariat before the start of the meeting and invited to do it if not yet done.

The EU-Rail Executive Director (ED) introduced the new Head of Corporate Services at EU-Rail JU, Mr Vasileios CHATGEORGIADIS, to the Members. Mr Vasileios CHATGEORGIADIS expressed his willingness to work closely with all EU-Rail Members for the achievement of objectives.

The representative of DEUTSCHE BAHN informed the Chair that he had an announcement to make at the end of the meeting.

The Chair presented the draft Agenda for adoption and added that all documents relating to the meeting had been distributed in advance to the participants.

The Agenda was adopted without any changes:

¹ Article 7 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Board required the presence of at least 50% of the members other than the Union.

<p>1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA</p> <p><i>Declarations of conflict of interest based on Agenda items</i></p>	<p>10.00-10.10</p>
<p>ITEMS FOR DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD</p>	
<p>2. DECISION ON 2024 CALL AWARD</p> <p><i>Considering the confidential nature of the topic, on the basis of Article 4.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Board, the report underpinning the Governing Board Decision will be provided not earlier than 11 July 2024.</i></p> <p><i>The Governing Board representatives of the Private Founding Members are invited to consider this Governing Board Decision as a risk of Conflict of Interest, where their own entity would be a participant to a consortium which has submitted a proposal that will be subject to the Governing Board Decision.</i></p>	<p>10.10-11:30</p>
<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p>	
<p>3. AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INDICATIVE LIST OF DOCUMENTS TO BE ADOPTED BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE OR AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amendment of Work Programme 2024 • DATE OF THE NEXT GB (ORDINARY) MEETING: 21 November 2024 	<p>11:30 -12:00</p>

ITEMS FOR DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

2. DECISION ON THE 2024 CALL AWARD

In line with Articles 11 and 12 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Board, the Chair invited private Members who were in Conflict of Interest with this point for decision, to remain silent and abstain from voting.

The following private Members were not participating in proposals under the call 2024, therefore potentially not in conflict of interest: ANGELRAIL, CD, CEIT, DLR, eSGR, SNCF, STRUKTON and INDRA/TALGO. All other private Members confirmed to be in CoI. The representative of STRUKTON declared that despite not being in conflict of interest, he would abstain from voting as he considered it was not appropriate.

The Chair invited the ED to present the call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2024-01.

The ED started by explaining the 3 topics (each with its own dedicated budget line) of the 2024 call for proposals. A first topic (HORIZON-ER-JU-2024-FA2-SNS) was about testing of FRMCS; a second topic (HORIZON-ER-JU-2024-FA5) about testing of DAC; and a third topic (HORIZON-ER-JU-2024-FA7) about hyperloop. He highlighted that with the aim of finding synergies with other JUs, the first topic was launched jointly with the Smart Networks and Services (SNS) JU, who would contribute with 1M EUR to its total funding budget of 13.5M EUR.

All of them were open to entities eligible under the general rules of the Horizon Europe Work Programme.

The call for proposals with a total budget of 21.7MEUR was published on 25 January and applications could be submitted (after one month extension) until 5 June 2024.

The low number of applications was understood given the specific nature of the topic call and the needed partnership. There was a good geographical distribution with 19 countries participated in the call, of which 15 from EU Member States, 3 Associated Country (Norway, UK and Turkey) and one Third Country (Switzerland).

All proposals were admissible and eligible and, therefore, evaluated between the 7th and the 27th of June 2024 in line with the rules on proposal submission and evaluation laid down in the EU-Rail Work Programme 2024. The Call Evaluation Report (CER) contains the results of the evaluation, including statistics related to the proposals submitted, results of the technical evaluation and the proposed call ranked list(s) based on independent experts ranking.

The evaluation committee was composed of 2 panels including a total of 12 external experts (10 scientific and 2 financial experts), plus 2 external experts contracted as recorders (one per panel). In addition, 3 external ethics experts performed the ethics evaluation.

According to Article 19.4(j) of the Single Basic Act, the EU-Rail Executive Director shall “*submit for approval to the Governing Board or to the Public Authorities Board as appropriate the list of actions to be selected for funding by the joint undertaking*”. Hence, based on the evaluation results provided by the evaluation committee/panel, the ED proposed to invite to grant preparation the main list of proposals included in Annex 1 of the CER (the “EU ranked list(s)”, although there was no priority order as there was only one proposal per topic), for an indicative amount of 21 699 405,46 EUR.

The ED also proposed to dedicate the unused budget of EUR 594,54 to operational activities of the JU in 2024 or the following years.

In addition, and considering:

- the provisions of the Call 2024-01, and
- the intrinsic link and interdependencies of the proposed Flagship Projects within the Innovation Pillar, System Pillar and Deployment Group activities,

the ED also recommended, to take note of the fact that any substantial misalignment or inconsistency not satisfactorily addressed during the Grant Preparation Phase will be reported back to the Governing Board to establish a possible way forward, including the termination of the preparation phase without signature of the concerned Grant(s).

Article 17.2(u) establishes that the Governing Board shall “*(...) approve the list of actions selected for funding*”. On this basis, the Chair submitted the draft decision referred to the results of the evaluation of the EU-Rail call for proposals of 2024 to the vote of the Members.

The ED underlined the main elements to the attention of the Governing Board for each selected proposal. The Chair invited the representative of ERA to comment on the FRMCS. ERA’s Director confirmed the importance of FRMCS in particular for TSI. The testing results from

the proposed selected project will be essential for this. EU-Rail JU shall continue liaising with ERA to ensure the success of FRMCS.

Decision

GB adopted Decision n°13/2024 approving the ranked lists of innovation actions selected for funding under the Europe's Rail call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2024-01.

The ED reminded participants that the GB Decision would under embargo until its publication and the Evaluation Result Notification letters were issued.

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair passed then the floor to Mr Ralf MARXEN who informed all attendants that from 1st of August, he will take new functions and therefore will not be representing his company in EU-Rail anymore. He wished to say good-bye and thank all EU-Rail Members and JU staff after 10 years of collaboration. He expressed his willingness to keep in contact and wished all the best for the continuation of the work. The DEUTSCHE BAHN GB representative will from now be Jasmin BIGDON.

The Chair, the ED and all Governing Board Members warmly thanked him for his years of invaluable contribution to the EU-Rail and agreed that he would be very much missed.

- INDICATIVE LIST OF DOCUMENTS TO BE ADOPTED BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE OR AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

Amendment of Work Programme 2024

The ED informed the Members that an amendment of the WP is expected to be proposed for the Governing Board adoption by written procedure before the next GB meeting.

- INDICATIVE DATES OF THE NEXT GB MEETING

The next GB (ordinary) meeting will be held on 21 November 2024.

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking all Members for their participation and invited them to meet at the Programme Committee meeting on the day after and/or at Innotrans in September.

Done in Brussels, on 17 July 2024.



Signed:

Magda KOPCZYNSKA

Chairperson of the Governing Board