£2million funding available to explore new materials innovation for rail

A £2 million research fund will be available to support cutting edge materials science innovation for a higher capacity, lower cost railway.

The rail industry spends billions of pounds annually renewing, installing and maintaining its resources. Creating a higher capacity railway means we will need to purchase and install new assets, but will also lead to increased use and wear of existing assets. Components will need to be reliable and maintainable, while minimising whole life costs. The Rail Technical Strategy sets out the vision for both infrastructure and rolling stock assets to deliver higher performance and greater reliability for a reduced whole life cost. RSSB is working with the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (ESPRC), supported by Department for Transport, to invite calls to establish a number of cross-disciplinary consortia to conduct research into novel applications for materials to reduce whole life asset costs.

Innovative solutions to tackle these problems from academic parties, are welcomed, including those not traditionally associated with rail research.

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More information, is available in the call document which provides guidance on how to respond to the call and the submittal date.
Media enquiries, contact: pressoffice@rssb.co.uk; 0203 142 5333

Notes to Editors:-
1. About RSSB

We help the industry understand risk, guide standards, manage research, development and innovation and collaborate to improve.
The rail industry in Britain is made up of many different organisations, but they all form a system and share a common purpose, to move people and freight safely and efficiently by rail. RSSB bring all parts of this system together to support shared decisions, products and services, to help industry drive out unnecessary cost, improve business performance and develop long-term strategy.

Our activities involve:

- **Understanding risk** – Using safety intelligence from across the rail industry and elsewhere with the latest risk modelling to inform members and support safe decision making.
- **Guiding standards** – Creating, reviewing and simplifying GB standards to align with European requirements; managing the Rule Book and making it easier for the railway to deliver efficiently and safely.
- **Managing research, development and innovation** – Undertaking, commissioning and managing research and innovation programmes to address current needs, provide knowledge for decision making now and for the future, and promoting step changes to deliver the Rail Technical Strategy.
- **Collaborating to improve** – As an independent cross-industry body with a critical mass of technical expertise, supporting activities which require collaboration. These range from supplier assurance schemes (RISQS, RISAS) to confidential reporting (CIRAS), from health and wellbeing strategies to sustainability principles.

We are run by the industry, for the industry, with member companies from across the mainline system. The demand for our services comes from the industry itself, and from the involvement of cross-industry groups. For more information go to [www.rssb.co.uk](http://www.rssb.co.uk)

2. EPSRC is the main UK government agency for funding research and training in engineering and the physical sciences, investing more than £800 million a year in a broad range of subjects - from mathematics to materials science, and from information technology to structural engineering.