Press Release

24 September 2014

Winners announced in £3million FutureRailway electrification competition

Funding worth £3million has been announced for nine winning proposals to reduce the cost of electrification schemes by avoiding the need to reconstruct bridges and tunnels.

The nine successful proposals to trial innovative technology-enabled solutions are being funded as part of a FutureRailway competition managed by RSSB, and in partnership with Network Rail and the Department for Transport.

This is one of a series of competitions to promote innovation within the rail industry and enable the delivery of the Rail Technical Strategy (RTS), aiming to reduce the cost and carbon, but increase the capacity and customer satisfaction in the future railway in Britain.

The solutions to avoid reconstruction include: new design tools, innovative ways to reduce the construction depth of Overhead Line Electrification Equipment (OLE), and new track lowering and bridge jacking techniques.

Competition winners were Balfour Beatty, DGauge, Electren, Freyssinet, IDOM, PCAT Consortium, Tata Steel, TRL and URS. Feasibility studies will run until January 2015 after which finalists will be chosen to proceed to the demonstrator phase.

David Clarke, Director of FutureRailway, commented: “Altering and reconstructing bridges and tunnels is roughly 25% of the cost of electrification and therefore we saw this as an area worth exploring for new cost reduction opportunities. The conventional wisdom was that everything worth trying had already been tried. It is really pleasing that we are announcing the start of the feasibility studies on nine very credible but novel ideas from innovative suppliers. We hope this will in time lead to the railway being able to deliver more electrification with the funding available.”

Further information on this competition can be found on www.futurerailway.org

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Notes to editors:

1) About FutureRailway

FutureRailway is the delivery team working on behalf of the cross-industry Technical Strategy Leadership Group (TSLG) to implement the Rail Technical Strategy. As such, FutureRailway is supported by the whole rail industry and its supply chain, and operates as a collaboration between RSSB and Network Rail. It incorporates the activities of the former Enabling Innovation Team which was set up by the rail industry to accelerate the uptake of innovation. The mission is to offer support to practical cross-industry demonstrator projects, but also seeking out innovative ideas and proposals from across the industry. The approach is to: understand the challenges that industry faces; connect potential innovators with these challenges; and, where necessary with potential funding. The team is hosted by RSSB, and reports into TSLG, and is supported by the Rail Delivery Group, RSSB’s Board as well as the Department for Transport.

2) 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 – including the FutureRailway programme.
- **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)