FutureRailway announce £4 million Predictable and Optimised Braking competition

FutureRailway has launched a 100% funded £4m competition on Predictable and Optimised Braking for Rail Vehicles.

The competition is seeking novel technical solutions which can provide increased braking performance and reliable braking rates that are independent of wheel rail adhesion. The competition aims to develop braking systems that may be fitted to new and suitable existing UK trains. The aim is that such trains will be fitted with systems which may be used on the UK mainline network without modification to the existing track and signalling infrastructure.

The competition will include two phases with successful applicants funded to carry out an initial feasibility study to investigate the technical and commercial viability of their proposed solutions. The most promising applications will receive funding to further develop and demonstrate the braking system.

The competition will be judged by a panel of industry experts including representatives from rolling stock manufacturers, which include Siemens and Hitachi. A briefing event will be held in London in the afternoon of Monday 10 November for interested suppliers. The event will set out the challenge and competition scope in detail and provide a networking opportunity. Other important dates include:

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Call Open</td>
<td>16 October 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Briefing Event</td>
<td>10 November 2014</td>
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<td>Questions Deadline</td>
<td>9.00am 1 Dec 2014</td>
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<td>Entry submission date</td>
<td>9.00am 18 Dec 2014</td>
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Further information on this competition and briefing event can be found on [www.futurerailway.org](http://www.futurerailway.org) and announced on Twitter via [@FutureRailway](https://twitter.com/FutureRailway).

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For media enquiries, please contact RSSB’s press office, on 020 3142 5331/2/3 or 5653 or email pressoffice@rssb.co.uk or visit the website at www.rssb.co.uk

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