Industry wide £6m competition seeks innovative submissions

RSSB and Transport Minister Claire Perry have launched the Train Operator Competition 2015 (TOC’15), as part of the Future Railway programme.

TOC’15 builds on last year’s railway operator challenge competition (ROCC) and is offering £6m to co-fund innovative proposals to address key challenges faced by UK train operating companies.

Proposals from industry are being sought that actively contribute to the 4C industry targets outlined in the Rail Technical Strategy (RTS). These include: Improving Customer experience and Capacity whilst reducing Cost and Carbon.

Rail Minister Claire Perry commented:

“Innovation is vital to the rail industry as passenger numbers and customer expectations continue to rise. Harnessing the latest technology and being creative in customer service hold the key to staying competitive.

“That’s why along with investing record amounts in rail infrastructure as part of our long term economic plan, we are providing £6m this year to encourage train operators to collaborate with each other and their supply chains to come up with projects that will transform the industry and make it ready for future challenges.”

The competition is now officially open for applications and a copy of the brief can be downloaded from the Future Railway website: http://www.futurerailway.org/competitions/Pages/default.aspx

To receive an application pack please contact TOC15@futurerailway.org and the full invitation to tender will be issued.

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For further information and photographs from the event please contact RSSB’s press office on 020 3142 5331/2 or email pressoffice@rssb.co.uk or visit the website at www.rssb.co.uk

Notes to Editors:
About RSSB

The railway is a complex system with multiple interfaces delivered by many different organisations. At RSSB, we bring these different organisations together to make collective decisions.

Through research, the understanding of risk, and analysis, we help the rail industry in the areas of safety, standards, knowledge and innovation. We support the railway too across a wide range of cross-industry topics requiring our knowledge and independence. And we provide a constant point of reference in a changing environment.

Our work involves close collaboration, but as technical experts, we’re also able to step back and provide an informed view. And because we can see both the big picture and the detail, we’re able to furnish the industry with the information and tools it needs to continuously improve.

We’re an expert body with a wide compass of knowledge, skills and experience. We’re owned by the industry but are non-profit-making and independent of any commercial interests. We span the whole system, including in our membership infrastructure companies, train and freight operators, rolling stock owners and suppliers to the industry.

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.
About the Future Railway Programme

The Future Railway programme was established to support innovation in the delivery of the Rail Technical Strategy (RTS). It has cross industry support through the Technical Strategy Leadership Group, run by RSSB. It promotes innovation by supporting cross-industry demonstrator projects and 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.