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SHIFT2RAIL JOINT UNDERTAKING

**CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR
THE SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE
SHIFT2RAIL JOINT UNDERTAKING**

Ref. S2R JU/SC/01/2014

October 2014

1) Introduction

The Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking (S2R JU) was established by Council Regulation (EU) No 642/2014 of 16 June 2014 (S2R Regulation)¹ until 31 December 2024. It is a new public-private partnership in the rail sector established under Article 187 of the Treaty, providing a platform for the rail sector as a whole to work together with a view to driving innovation in the years to come. Rail research conducted within Shift2Rail must contribute to addressing the challenges faced by the rail sector, through a comprehensive and coordinated approach to research and innovation focusing on the needs of the rail system and of its users. In particular, it should prioritise the following objectives:

- Achieve the Single European Railway Area through the removal of remaining technical obstacles holding back the rail sector in terms of interoperability and through the transition to a more integrated, efficient and safe EU railway market, guaranteeing the proper interconnection of technical solutions.
- Radically enhance the attractiveness and competitiveness of the European railway system to ensure a modal shift towards rail through a faster and less costly transition to a more attractive, user-friendly (including for persons with reduced mobility), efficient, reliable, and sustainable European rail system.
- Help the European rail industry to retain and consolidate its leadership on the global market for rail products and services by ensuring that R&I activities and results can provide a competitive advantage to EU industries and by stimulating and accelerating the market uptake of innovative technologies.

In accordance with Articles 1(4) and 2(a) Statutes annexed to the S2R JU Regulation (hereinafter referred to as the "S2R Statutes"), the Governing Board of the S2R JU has approved a common, forward-looking strategic Master Plan (hereinafter the S2R Master Plan), which identifies the key priorities of Shift2Rail and indicates the main operational and technological innovations that are required to achieve the objectives of the JU. The S2R Master Plan shall be endorsed by the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, and communicated to the European Parliament, prior to its adoption by the Governing Board of the S2R JU.

The S2R JU will be tasked with the prioritisation and execution of the S2R Master Plan. In this respect, the S2R JU will be responsible in accordance with Article 2 of the S2R Statutes to carry out the following tasks:

- mobilise public and private sector funds for financing the activities in each of the Innovation Programmes defined in the S2R Master Plan;
- translate the S2R Master Plan into a detailed multi-annual action plan and into result-oriented annual work plans, accompanied by detailed investment plans, that allow for continuity, synchronicity, and long-term investment, and ensure its effective and efficient implementation;
- ensure the supervision of activities related to the development of common products duly identified in the S2R Master Plan;
- financially support indirect actions on research and innovation, mainly through grants to its members and to participants through the most appropriate measures, such as procurement or the award of grants following calls for proposals to achieve the objectives of Shift2Rail, in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013 of the European Parliament and of the

¹ OJ L 177, 17.6.2014, p. 9

Council of 11 December 2013 laying down the rules for participation and dissemination in Horizon 2020²;

- organise the technical work of research, development, validation and study, to be carried out under its authority while avoiding fragmentation of such activities;
- ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rail research and innovation activities and follow progress towards the achievement of the S2R JU objectives through adequate monitoring and evaluation processes.

2) Aim of the call

Article 13 of the S2R Statutes calls for the setting of an advisory body, the Scientific Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the S2R SC"), composed of up to 12 Members with the tasks of advising on the scientific priorities to be addressed in the work plans and on the scientific achievements described in the annual activity report.

In the light of the above, the S2R JU is hereby launching a call for expression of interest in order to obtain applications for the selection of Members of the S2R SC in view of its establishment under the S2R Regulation and convening in due time for its first meeting.

3) Terms of Reference of the S2R SC

a. Introduction

In accordance with Article 13 of the Statutes, the Members of the S2R SC shall reflect a balanced representation of worldwide recognised experts from academia, industry and regulatory bodies. Collectively, the Members of the S2R SC shall have the necessary scientific competencies and expertise covering the technical domain needed to make science-based suggestions and advice to the S2R JU.

The S2R SC shall be composed mainly of high-level scientists and engineers. Its purpose is to focus on the scientific and technical analysis of the Shift2Rail initiative from different perspectives: environmental impact, technology and scientific forecast, societal impact and economics.

The S2R SC shall meet at least twice a year. It shall provide independent advice concerning the scientific, technological and managerial issues of the Programmes.

The S2R SC shall elect a Chairperson among its Members, may, with the agreement of the latter, invite other persons to attend its meetings and shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

b. Scope and tasks to be performed by the Members of the S2R SC

In accordance with article 13 of the S2R Statutes, the S2R SC will perform the following tasks:

- advise on the scientific and technological priorities to be addressed in the annual work plans;
- advise on the scientific and technological achievements described in the annual activity report;
- suggest possible areas of advanced research that could be subject to further developments;
- suggest possible synergies with national and international research and innovation activities in the rail technical domain, in particular via the European Rail Research Advisory Council

² OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 81

(ERRAC) Technology Platform, as well as with those in other domains, as identified in Article 2(k) of the S2R Statutes.

In practice, the members of the S2R SC will be requested to provide suggestions and advice on;

- the consistency of the S2R work plans including, in particular, the interactions between the activities undertaken in the Innovation Programmes and the cross-cutting themes
- the global consistency of each Innovation Programme: schedule, critical milestones, interfaces, etc.
- the status of each Innovation Programme and cross-cutting theme with respect to its objectives;
- the innovative content of the Innovation Programmes and cross-cutting themes;
- major changes in technological content, demonstrators or schedule;
- the socio-economic impact of the Joint Technology Initiative;
- any scientific or technical issue on which the Executive Director or the Governing Board may request advice on.

The S2R SC will meet at least twice a year (article 13(5) of the S2R Statutes) and the estimated workload of a S2R SC Member should be in the range of 10-20 working days per year.

4) Selection criteria

This call for expression of interest is open to any **individual person** of any nationality who satisfies the criteria set forth below:

- university degree in a relevant scientific area, preferably at post-graduate level;
- senior, high-level experience of at least 10 years in academic research, applied research, technology engineering or economics;
- wide knowledge and experience of the rail sector;
- outstanding skills and expertise in one or several scientific or technical areas related to the S2R JU;
- record of previous participation in other scientific and/or technological advisory bodies, demonstrating the ability to look for consensus and to provide synthetic, wide-spectrum analyses would be an asset;
- full independence from the S2R JU stakeholders;
- very good command of written and spoken English.

European Commission staff, including external staff working for the Commission, staff of the Joint Research Centre, officials of Member States, and of national, regional or local authorities shall not be eligible.

Persons who are employed by an organisation that is member of S2R JU shall not be eligible.

The S2R JU reserves the right to request any additional documentary evidence if it deems necessary in order to verify the applicants' skills and knowledge.

Please note that it is the responsibility of the applicant to inform the S2R JU immediately of any changes to their administrative and technical details which would result in a change to their original application.

5) Documents required for applying

In order for the S2R JU to be able to evaluate the applicants' technical and professional skills and knowledge against the above set selection criteria, applicants are required to submit the following documents:

- a curriculum vitae in EU format³;
- a signed letter of motivation providing an overview of the areas of technical expertise and experience in the field, ability to perform the tasks, as mentioned above, and motivations related to the performance of the assignment. The letter should contain also a declaration on any potential conflict of interest in relation to S2R JU stakeholders and areas of activities which may undermine the performance of the tasks;
- diplomas and relevant certificates;
- a list of scientific publications in books and peer-reviewed journals and abstracts of the 5 most relevant articles.

6) Deadline for submission of applications

Applications must be sent by email to: MOVE-SHIFT2RAIL-SCIENTIFICCOMMITTEE@ec.europa.eu, by 22 December 2014. Documentation submitted after this date will be considered not acceptable and automatically destroyed.

The title and exact reference of the call for expression of interest should be indicated in the subject of the e-mail.

7) Selection of applications

All candidates will have to submit their applications as described in sections 5 and 6 of this document. In accordance with Article 13(3) of the Statutes of the S2R JU, the ERRAC Technology Platform, the States Representatives Group of the S2R JU and the European Railway Agency will be notified of the launch of the call for expressions of interest for the selection of Members of the Scientific Committee and will be invited to make recommendations of possible candidates. However, the nomination of candidates by one of the above-mentioned bodies does not exempt these candidates from the submission of applications as described in sections 5 and 6 of this document and does not prejudice the final decision of the Governing Board on the selection of the successful candidates.

The selection will be made by an evaluation panel composed of the Executive Director, a Project Officer from the S2R JU and 3 representatives of the Governing Board of the S2R JU.

The selection panel will assess and score each candidate against the selection criteria set out in section 4 and will establish a shortlist of candidates best suited for appointment, taking also into consideration the candidates proposed by the ERRAC Technology Platform, the States Representatives Group and by the European Railway Agency in accordance with Article 13.3 of the Statutes.

³ <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae>

A reserve list of up to 6 experts will be also established. Experts of the reserve list will be part of the Scientific Committee if at any time any of the twelve members leave the Scientific Committee or when vacancies arise.

The Executive Director will present the results of the selection process to the Governing Board which will take the final decision.

The selected candidates will be officially informed by letter of the Executive Director by which their written acceptance as well as the absence of conflict of interest, as per the declaration signed earlier, will be requested. The selection and appointment of the S2R SC Members shall be completed by 20 February 2015.

Experts will be entitled to a payment for the days spent performing the S2R SC services. A Contract will be signed between the S2R JU and the selected experts. The same rules on appointment, reimbursement of costs and allowances, applicable to the external experts according to the rules of the European Commission will apply.

8) Other information

No correspondence will be exchanged on the status of the applications except in the case of a final decision, positive or negative. Applicants are therefore formally requested not to enquire about the progress of their application neither by email, telephone and fax, nor by letter.

9) Confidentiality and dissemination

For each task they perform, the selected S2R SC Members shall demonstrate appropriate ethical conduct and must respect the confidentiality of the information and documents to which they will have access. S2R SC reports shall be confidential. The Executive Director will decide on any dissemination of S2R SC outputs.

Specific clauses to this effect are included in and/or annexed to the experts' model contract. Each S2R SC Member shall also sign an individual non-disclosure agreement prior to the start of his/her S2R SC activities.

The Chairman of the S2R SC will be entitled to participate in the Governing Board, according to the agenda, as an observer and take part in its deliberations but shall have no voting rights. The agenda of the Governing Board will be sent by its Chairman to the S2R SC Chairman.

10) Absence of conflict of interest

In order to ensure the independence of the Members of the S2R SC in performing their tasks as required under the S2R JU Regulation, they will be required to sign upon assignment a declaration of absence of conflict of interest. Applicants are invited to indicate already at application stage in the cover letter their direct or indirect involvement (if any) in the activities for which they are requested to perform tasks.

The selected Members will be required to confirm this information before being invited to take part in any tasks assigned to them in the framework of the present call for expression of interest and to sign, upon appointment, a declaration of absence of conflict of interest which will be deposited and recorded by the secretariat of the S2R JU.

11) Start of the assignment

The first meeting of the S2R SC is foreseen / planned for March 2015.

12) Protection of personal data

The S2R JU will ensure that candidates' personal data are processed as required by Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18.12.2000⁴ on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data.

This applies in particular to the confidentiality and security of such data.

⁴ OJ L 8 of 12.01.2001