



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF
INTEREST FOR THE SELECTION OF A
NEW MEMBER OF THE SCIENTIFIC
COMMITTEE OF THE SHIFT2RAIL
JOINT UNDERTAKING

Ref: S2R.SC.01.2017

10 July 2017

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. This public-private partnership in the rail sector established under Article 187 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides 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 fulfil 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 has been endorsed by the Council on 10 February 2015², acting on a proposal from the Commission, and communicated to the European Parliament, prior to its adoption by the Governing Board of the S2R JU³.

The S2R JU is entrusted with the prioritisation and execution of the S2R Master Plan. In this respect, the S2R JU is 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;

¹ OJ L 177, 17.6.2014, p. 9

² OJ L 36, 12.2.2015, p. 7.

³ Decision 4/2015 of the S2R GB.

- translate the S2R Master Plan into a detailed multi-annual action plan⁴ 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 other 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 Council of 11 December 2013 laying down the rules for participation and dissemination in Horizon 2020⁵;
- 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.

The S2R SC members have been appointed by S2R JU's Governing Board in its decision 3/2015, following a selection procedure laid down in the 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).

As a result of this selection process, twelve members have been selected and a reserve list has been created. Nevertheless, one position became vacant during the year 2016.

While the present SC members offer a high level of expertise regarding the railway sector, the body is lacking extra knowledge in the field of telecommunication, information technology, artificial intelligence and/or digital sciences. This need had not been foreseen at the moment of the first call. The Governing Board, supported by the S2R SC, is therefore of the opinion that the input of a new member of the S2R SC holding expertise in this subject is necessary in order for the S2R SC to provide comprehensive scientific advice in the interest of the JU and its research and innovation activities.

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 a member of the S2R SC having the necessary

⁴ Decision 15/2015 of the S2R GB adopting the Multi-Annual Action Plan of the S2R JU.

⁵ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 81

expertise in the field of telecommunications, information technology, artificial intelligence and/or digital sciences as well as for the establishment of a reserve list.

This call is therefore intended to complement the Call for Expressions of Interest for the Selection of Members of the Scientific Committee of the S2R JU.

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 and public or private research centres (including within industry).

Collectively, the Members of the S2R SC shall have the necessary scientific competencies and expertise covering the technical domains needed to make science-based suggestions and advice to the S2R JU in accordance with the provisions of the S2R Regulation.

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 comprehending environmental impact, technology and scientific forecast, telecommunications and information technology, digital aspects, artificial intelligence, automation, 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.

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 performs the following tasks:

- advise on the scientific and technological priorities to be addressed in the annual work plans and in the multiannual action plan;
- 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 (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 are requested to provide suggestions and advice on; the consistency of the S2R annual 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 Undertaking;
- any scientific or technical issue on which the Executive Director or the Governing Board may request advise on.

The successful applicant and members of the reserve list are expected to perform the above-mentioned tasks in accordance with their background and expertise.

The S2R SC meets 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.

The S2R SC Members' participation to the meetings is reimbursed in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Procedures available at <https://shift2rail.org/about-shift2rail/structure-of-shift2rail-initiative/scientific-committee/>

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, etc;
- outstanding skills and expertise in the field of telecommunication, information technology, artificial intelligence, digital sciences and/or similar domains;
- record of previous participation in other scientific and/or technological advisory bodies;
- demonstrated ability to look for consensus and to provide synthetic, wide-spectrum analyses would be an asset;
- 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 the 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 format⁶;
- 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 also contain a declaration regarding any possible conflict of interest based on the information available at the time of the application 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 three most relevant articles.

6. Deadline for submission of applications

Applications must be sent by email to: scientific.committee@s2r.europa.eu by **1 October 2017, 23:59 Brussels Time**.

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 a member 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, the SC Chairperson, a member of the States Representatives Group, two members of the S2R GB, one of which representing the Union.

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

⁶ <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae>

Representatives Group and by the European Railway Agency in accordance with Article 13.3 of the Statutes.

The selection panel may additionally organise interviews with candidates.

A reserve list of up to six experts will be also established. Experts of the reserve list will be part of the Scientific Committee if at any time the selected member leaves the Scientific Committee or if vacancies in relation to their specific areas of expertise arise.

The Executive Director will present the results of the selection process to the S2R GB, 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. S2R JU foresees to finalise the selection and appointment and to notify candidates in time for the newly appointed member to attend the S2R Scientific Committee meeting of 24 November 2017.

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 he/she performs, the selected S2R SC member shall demonstrate appropriate ethical conduct and must respect the confidentiality of the information and documents to which he/she 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. The selected S2R SC member shall also sign an individual non-disclosure agreement prior to the start of his/her S2R SC activities.

10. Absence of conflict of interest

In order to ensure the independence of the selected member of the S2R SC in performing his/her tasks as required under the S2R JU Regulation, he/she 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 member of the SC will be required to confirm this information before being invited to take part in any tasks assigned to him/her 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 following the selection decision is foreseen on 24 November 2017.

12. Protection of personal data

The S2R JU will ensure that candidates' personal data are processed as required by Regulation (EC) N°45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2004 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 data⁷.

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

⁷ OJ L 8 of 12.01.2001, p.1