



Press Release

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Shift2Rail Call for Proposals 2021: Participation Results

Shift2Rail's 2021 Call for Proposals, launched during the European Year of Rail, prompts requests for R&I funding worth €3.7 million.

In answer to its targeted 2021 Call for Proposals, limited in scope, in line with the [Shift2Rail Annual Work Plan 2021](#), the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking has received five proposals with a total value of €4.3 million and a funding request of €3.7 million (more than 100% compared to the available funding).

Two proposals were submitted under the topic 'Digital automated coupler innovation for the European Delivery Programme', related to Shift2Rail's [Innovation Programme 5](#) on rail freight, and three proposals were submitted on 'R&I impact and benefits to make rail attractive for stakeholders', linked to Shift2Rail's [Cross Cutting Activities](#).

With this Call for Proposals, and in only 5 years, Shift2Rail will have invested in Research and Innovation activities €0.8 billion cumulatively (including Lighthouse Projects), accomplishing its mandate to recover the initial delays and accelerate the delivery of the Programme's innovative solutions. Considering the Additional Activities provided by its Members estimated at €0.2 billion, the Shift2Rail Programme achieved a leverage effect of 2.2 times each Euro invested by the Union.

This Call for Proposals is unique in nature: firstly, it is the seventh and final Call under Shift2Rail's current Research and Innovation programme, as all future funding will be awarded from Shift2Rail's successor programme, Europe's Rail. Secondly, the selected projects will be launched under the [European Year of Rail](#) and will help to achieve the goals of the European Union's [Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy](#).

Commenting on the participation results of the 2021 Call for Proposals, Shift2Rail's Executive Director, Carlo Borghini, said: *"Despite the targeted nature of the Call and relatively short deadline, we have received a promising number of proposals from 22 participants coming from 11 countries. This demonstrates the rail community's commitment to substantially increase the competitiveness of the European railway sector, specifically on rail freight automation. We are looking forward to these projects building on the results already achieved, and to paving the way to Shift2Rail's successor programme, Europe's Rail."*

Shift2Rail, together with a renewed pool of highly qualified independent experts, will now start the evaluation of the proposals. The results are expected to be announced, indicatively, by mid-July. The R&I actions related to this Call are expected to start during the third quarter 2021.



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