



## Press Release

8 July 2021

# Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking and the International Union of Railways

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The signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking (S2R JU) and the International Union of Railways (UIC) took place at the UIC General Assembly, on Thursday 8 July at UIC's premises in Paris.

The UIC is the worldwide organisation for the promotion of rail transport at a global level, founded in 1922, with the main mission to promote rail transport at the global level in order to cope with current challenges of mobility and sustainable development, by enhancing international cooperation between its members, building a consistent railway system and achieving projects of global and regional dimension.

The UIC is the global technical platform that sets out the [Technical solutions for the operational railway](#) (among them, the International Railway Solutions, *IRS*) for designing, constructing, operating and maintaining the services that are provided by the Railway Operating Community to the end users.

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding is to promote cooperation between UIC and the S2R JU to support the structured implementation of Shift2Rail's innovative solutions, and to deliver a functional system approach that is suited to the operational needs of the sector and, in particular, the final users.

*"This agreement between our two organisations is very important for us, as it strengthens our ongoing collaboration and paves the way for deeper cooperation. The objective is to boost the competitiveness of the railway sector by accelerating the market uptake of innovative solutions and enhancing the economic benefits. Two excellent examples of our cooperation are the ongoing work on telecommunications and standardisation of Future Railway Mobile Communication Systems, and the support for a railway system data modelling,"* explained **Mr Carlo Borghini, Executive Director of Shift2Rail**.

Commenting on the new agreement, the **Director General of UIC, Mr François Davenne**, said: *"Improving and deepening our collaboration with S2R is a key milestone for UIC. Our members are more and more implied in delivering together within S2R JU a shared vision of the railway system of the future, both in terms of general architecture and of specific innovations. UIC as the technical body of the sector is the forum where our members are joining forces on key subjects such as telecoms, ticketing, digital platforms, etc. Close collaboration with S2R will help to ascertain that railways are ready for delivering the zero emission backbone of mobility that our citizens desire."*

This strengthened collaboration between Shift2Rail and the International Union of Railways will ensure Shift2Rail's innovative solutions meet the operational requirements of the rail sector, while also satisfying the needs of end users.

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## About the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking

Shift2Rail is the first European rail public private partnership tasked with developing strategically focused research and innovation (R&I) and market-driven solutions, integrating these to create the railway systems of the future. With a total value of €920 million for the period 2014-2021, funded through the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union, Shift2Rail is promoting the competitiveness of the European rail industry, ensuring the attractiveness of rail as a safe and sustainable low carbon transport mode. This way, Shift2Rail aims to meet the changing transport/mobility needs of EU citizens and the economy.

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## About UIC

UIC is the worldwide organisation for the promotion of rail transport at a global level and collaborative development of the railway system. It brings together some 200 members on all 5 continents, among them rail operators, infrastructure managers, railway service providers, etc. UIC maintains close cooperation links with all actors in the rail transport domain right around the world, including manufacturers, railway associations, public authorities and stakeholders in other domains and sectors whose experiences may be beneficial to rail development. The UIC's main tasks include understanding the business needs of the rail community, developing programmes of innovation to identify solutions to those needs and preparing and publishing a series of documents known as IRS that facilitate the implementation of the innovative solutions.



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