



INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF RAILWAYS

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First UIC “Global Rail Research and Innovation Awards” ceremony to be held in December 2012

The International Union of Railways, the worldwide platform of railway expertise, is encouraging railway research and innovation bringing practical value at global level.

(Paris, 1 March 2012) Rail transport faces huge current and future challenges for which innovation and step changes are necessary. As UIC's overall mission is to promote an increased use of rail transport at world level and to help members make rail transport more attractive, effective, sustainable and economically viable, the last two UIC General Assemblies have strongly supported the ambitious programme of the International Railway Research Board (IRRB) and its initiative to organise the 1st UIC Global Rail Research & Innovation Awards.

The official award ceremony will be held in Paris on the occasion of the UIC General Assembly in December 2012, also celebrating 90 years of the founding of UIC and international cooperation within our association.

UIC Director-General Jean-Pierre Loubinoux said: *“In its aim to fully address all the technical subjects representing the railways, UIC is extremely pleased to launch this new global initiative through the introduction of these Global Rail Research Awards. This will enable our members and their associated research partners to explore progress themes and thus enrich the sector’s technical creativity.”*

Who is invited to compete for the Global Rail Research and Innovation Awards?

Applicants for the awards can be representatives of rail transport operators, infrastructure managers, rail research institutes and academia specialised in rail research, the rail supply industry, passenger transport (user) organisations, public transport authorities as well as individual researchers.

The Global Rail Research Awards will reward rail research and innovations with practical value and proven implementation in the following areas:

- Safety/security
- Sustainable development
- Rail System/railway operations
- Rail freight
- Customer services
- Cost reductions

Criteria for evaluation

- The innovations have a clear and demonstrated practical value for our members
- The innovations are based on scientific research and conceptual development in the fields of engineering, technology and organisational processes
- The innovations have been demonstrated and implemented into a technological or organisational process, having proven their efficiency and having made a significant contribution to the development of rail companies and having clearly increased the efficiency, effectiveness, quality of rail transport and preferable lead to a cost reduction

The jury will consist of members of the International Railway Research Board (IRRB) (grouping high level representatives of the leading railway research institutes around the world) with the advice of experts from their organisation.

The deadline for application will be between 1 April and 30 June 2012

More information will be available very soon to keep you up-to date with this event.

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About UIC – International Union of Railways

UIC, the international railway association which celebrates its 90th anniversary this year, counts 200 members across 5 continents (railway companies, infrastructure managers, rail-related transport operators, etc.). UIC's members represent 1 million kilometres of lines, 2,800 billion passenger-km, 9,500 billion tonne-km, and a workforce of 6.7 million people.

UIC's chief task is to promote railway transport around the world and help its members to meet all the current and future challenges of mobility and sustainable development.

UIC's cooperative undertakings aim to boost the railway system's competitiveness and interoperability, particularly on an international scale. The 700 technical leaflets which make up the "UIC Code" constitute a technical benchmark across the globe. UIC also comprises 8 forums and cooperation platforms, 6 regional assemblies, 30 study bodies coordinating circa 180 railway projects, world congresses, conferences and information sessions organised each year, as well as a host of services offered to its members.

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