



## Press Release

Brussels, 16 February 2016

# Nomination of new Executive Director of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking

**SHIFT2RAIL JOINT UNDERTAKING (S2R JU) WELCOMES THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**S2R JU is delighted to announce the nomination of Carlo Borghini as its new Executive Director. Mr Borghini's appointment comes as the JU reaches a fully operational state, with all its Members selected and the first call for research activities under way.**

*"On behalf of the Board, I would like to congratulate Carlo Borghini on his nomination", said Henrik Hololei, Chair of S2R JU's Governing Board and Director General, DG Mobility & Transport at the European Commission. "Thanks to his proven experience, we are convinced Carlo is an excellent choice to lead and to deliver on S2R JU".*

Andy Doherty, spokesperson for the industrial members of Shift2Rail and Chief Technological Officer of Network Rail said *"we look forward to working with and supporting Carlo in delivering Shift2Rail."*

Commenting on his appointment, Carlo Borghini said *"Shift2Rail is Europe's most ambitious programme of research in the rail sector, and is vital to ensuring the long term competitiveness of the industry and to delivering sustainable transport in Europe. I am very honoured to have been chosen to lead this programme, and look forward to working with all Members of the JU to ensure we deliver the results they expect."*

Carlo Borghini has extensive experience in running large scale research programmes as well as European Agencies. Since July 2014 he has been Corporate Services Director at the European Defence Agency where he is responsible for the overall management of financial and human resources, as well as administrative issues.

Previously, he held the position of Deputy Executive Director for the SESAR Joint Undertaking (Single European Skies Advanced Research - SJU) in Brussels from 2008 to 2014. In this capacity, he had specific responsibilities for corporate governance, administration and finance. More specifically, he managed a research budget amounting to over €2 billion, with a portfolio of more than 300 different projects undertaken by the 16 SJU Members.

Carlo Borghini's appointment will be effective by late spring 2016, subject to the completion of the necessary administrative procedures required to finalise the recruitment. His contract will run for an initial period of five years, after which the Governing Board may decide to extend the term of office for a further period of up to five years.

### **About S2R JU**

S2R JU was established by Council Regulation (EU) n° 642/2014 of 16 June 2014. Under the Regulation, the Commission is responsible for the establishment and initial operation of the Joint Undertaking and in this context designated an Executive Director *ad interim*, now Keir Fitch, to start-up the Joint Undertaking.

S2R JU is a public-private partnership, providing a platform for the actors of the European rail system to work together with a view to driving innovation in the years to come, by implementing a comprehensive and coordinated research and innovation strategy. S2R JU is the first European rail initiative to seek focused research and innovation and market-driven solutions by accelerating the integration of new and advanced technologies into innovative rail product solutions. S2R JU aims to promote the competitiveness of the European Rail Industry and meet changing EU transport needs.

S2R JU has set ambitious targets and a robust framework in which to meet them. Specifically, the initiative aims to double the capacity of the European rail system, increase its reliability and service quality by 50%, while cutting by half lifecycle costs.

S2R JU has twenty eight Members: the European Union, represented by the Commission,

and Aerfitec consortium, Alstom Transport SA, Amadeus IT Group SA, Ansaldo STS S.p.A, AZD Praha s.r.o., Bombardier Transportation GmbH, CFW consortium, Construcciones y Auxiliar de Ferrocarriles, Deutsche Bahn AG, DIGINEXT, EUROOC consortium, Faiveley Transport, HaCon Ingenieurgesellschaft mbH, Indra Sistemas S.A., Kapsch CarrierCom AG, Knorr-Bremse GmbH, MER MEC S.p.A., Network Rail, Siemens Atkiengesellschaft, Smart DeMain consortium, SmartRaCon consortium, SNCF, Railenium Swi'Tracken consortium, Patentes Talgo S.L.U., Thales, Trafikverket, Virtual Vehicle Austria consortium+.

S2R JU launched in December 2015 calls for proposals both for Members and non-Members for the first phase of development of the innovation programmes.

More information:

<http://www.shift2rail.org>

<http://ec.europa/transport>

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