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ERRAC

The European Rail
Research Advisory
Council

Rail research: driving competitiveness, moving society



ERRAC

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THE RAIL SECTOR: SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS

The rail sector provides sustainable transport solutions for the growing demand for transport in an enlarged European Union. In order to meet market demands, the rail sector is also committed to enhancing its attractiveness to the customer and to strengthening its competitiveness vis-à-vis other modes.

ERRAC PARTNERS: DEDICATED TO COORDINATED RAIL RESEARCH

With this in mind, the railway sector, representatives of Member States and the European Commission, customer groups, consultants, and academic institutions all joined forces in 2001 to set up the European Rail Research Advisory Council (ERRAC). This was the first ever successful initiative bringing all the stakeholders in rail transport together to agree on priorities and targets for railway research and to identify roadmaps for achieving these targets.

THE STRATEGIC RAIL RESEARCH AGENDA (SRRA): A VISION FOR THE SECTOR

The stakeholders jointly developed a long-term research strategy: the Strategic Rail Research Agenda, which was officially launched in 2002. This fundamental document spells out the strategic objectives for rail research, identifies research clusters and outlines the necessary steps for the implementation of the strategy. It also includes recommendations for implementation both in the public and private sectors, as well as for research programmes. Indeed, several important European research actions have already been developed in line with ERRAC objectives.

An ongoing challenge for ERRAC is to monitor the progression of SRRA objectives, to identify any gaps and to propose new ways to implement the strategy. To keep pace with the latest developments, ERRAC is also currently working on an updated SRRA.

RAIL RESEARCH: FOCUS ON CUSTOMER NEEDS

In 2006 ERRAC published Rail21, its vision for sustainable rail systems in a connected Europe. This brochure outlines the sector's approach to boosting its competitiveness through investment in innovation. It recognises that research should always be driven by end-user needs and tailored to clearly identified market requirements.

MAIN ERRAC FOCUS AREAS

- Strengthening the commitments of the Member States to ERRAC with the objective of identifying synergies and exploiting them.
- Integrating national, bilateral and multilateral European programmes.
- Screening all the aspects of railway sector and business processes that have a strong impact on increasing efficiency and reducing costs.
- Monitoring and assessing SRRA activities and evaluating the economic benefits of research implementation.

Visit

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for more information!

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