

ERTMS 2026 Conference Agenda

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21 April 2026 - 21 April 2026

11:00 - 12:45

Registration - Light lunch

12:45 - 13:00

Opening

13:00 - 14:30

Workshops - Session A

Workshop 1

Certification and authorisation in the context of large deployments

The objectives of workshop 1 are to identify bottlenecks and propose scalable, digitalised approval processes to handle massive FRMCS and ERTMS deployments efficiently and to review vehicle authorisation provisions in the context of accelerated deployment of ERTMS and migration to FRMCS and DAC deployment. For this purpose, a 2-part workshop organisation is foreseen where different subjects will be discussed

Part 1

- Current bottlenecks in certification/authorisation of vehicles;
- Scalable approval models for handling large volumes of vehicles;
- Application of Standard Retrofitting Package on massive retro-fittings for FRMCS;
- Application of Standard Retrofitting Package on massive retro-fittings for DAC;

Part 2

- Digitalisation and automation in conformity assessment and documentation;
- Collaboration mechanisms between NSAs, manufacturers, and operators to reduce lead times;

Workshop moderators

[Rainer Beller](#) (Beacon Rail), [Wouter Malfait](#) (ERA), [Juan Hernández Fernández](#) (ERA), [Oscar Martos](#) (ERA), [Martin Schroeder](#) (ERA), [Maarten Duhoux](#) (ERA), [Nicolas Wagner](#) (Siemens), [Mario Sela](#) (DB), [Maria Cataldo](#) (CER), [Thomas Erpenbeck](#) (DB), [Julien Depuydt](#) (NSA), [Luca Macchi](#) (NB-RAIL)

Workshop 2

Operational Rules for ERTMS - Building a consistent framework

The objective of workshop 2 is to discuss on the harmonisations of operational rules across Europe and integrate digital rulebooks to ensure safe, interoperable ERTMS operations. Several key points for discussion have been identified.

- Current operational frameworks and their limitations in an ERTMS environment;
- Cross-border harmonisation: aligning rules between different national networks;
- Digitalisation of rulebooks and integration into onboard systems;
- Deeper harmonisation based on L2 only operations from the JU/SP Operational team;

These points will be discussed in a 2-part workshop including discussions, presentations and a demonstrator.

- Operational Harmonisation and Engineering rules;
- Operational concept for Start of Mission, highlighting the value of fully harmonised operational and design principles;
- SIGMAT simulator demonstration (aligning operational rules between different national networks);
- La Maquette demonstration (Digitalisation of operational rulebook);

Workshop moderators

[Georgios Kouparousos](#) (ERA), [Almudena Andujar Herrero](#) (ERA), [Danilo Iovino](#) (Hitachi Rail), [Harm Jaap Groenwold](#) (EIM), [Paolo Ciucci](#) (Alstom), [Renato Rodrigues](#) (EUG), [Mark van Dooren](#) (CER), [Loris dal Molin](#) (CER), [Florian Candela](#) (CER), [Piet Schouwerwou](#) (ProRail), [René van de Schraaf](#) (ProRail), [Werner Matthias Ried](#) (DB InfraGO), [Sebastian Post](#) (EUG).

Workshop 3

Controlling ETCS Costs and exploring efficient solutions

This workshop aims to encourage participants to discuss their views on improving the costs of ETCS. Following a brief introduction from the ERTMS Deployment Management Team, specific questions will be explored in smaller groups. This will foster sharing of ETCS cost experiences among sector stakeholders and identify improvement ideas.

- What actions could your organisation take to reduce ERTMS costs?
- Which kind of action should be taken by other stakeholders?

Workshop moderators

[Hartwig Schuster](#) (UNISIG), [Christoph Schneider](#) (AERRL), [Jean François Verdin](#) (EAL), [Massimiliano Ciaffi](#) (CER), [Nicolas Ykman](#) (ERTMS Users Group), [Dominic Juner](#) (Beacon), [Gabriel du Plessis](#) (CER), [Nicola Furness](#) (EIM), [Virginie Taillandier](#) (CER), [Pauline Guicheney](#) (CER).

Workshop 4

Practical solutions to overcome FRMCS-related deployment challenges

This workshop will introduce the key elements of the Future Railway Mobile Communication System (FRMCS), focusing on the overall deployment vision, the potential use of public Mobile Network Operators (MNOs), and practical deployment scenarios and applications. Participants will work in several discussion groups to explore these topics from different operational and technical perspectives, encouraging interactive exchange and concrete insights for future implementation. Key points for discussion:

- Vision for FRMCS Deployment;
- Use of public Mobile Network Operators (MNO);
- Deployment scenarios and applications;

Workshop moderators

Ralf Marxen (DB), Pascal Desaunay (SNCF), Karel van Gils (Europe's Rail), Pipsa Hallner (Trafikverket), Joost van Gennip (CER), Ian Griffiths (AERRL), Begoña Domingo Ortuño (ERA), María José García Prieto (ERA), Ecaterina Ganga (UNITEL), Olivier Eudes (UNIFE), Chris Harris (UNIFE), Jesus Santiago Molina (EIM), Aurélie Csimazia (AERRL), Nassim Fahd Tikla (UNIFE), Alex Ende (UNIFE), Jos Noojen (EIM).

Workshop 5.1

Building resilience and adaptability for ERTMS. Military mobility needs: ensuring ERTMS supports strategic transport under defence scenarios

This workshop will examine how ERTMS can support military mobility needs and ensure strategic transport capability under defence related scenarios. Through several group discussions, participants will review the European Commission paper as well as UNIFE and CER position papers, and explore practical ways to guarantee effective military mobility in both peacetime and wartime. The session aims to identify key requirements and operational measures to ensure ERTMS remains resilient and fully capable in defence driven contexts. Discussion keypoints:

- Discuss EC paper, UNIFE and CER position papers
- How to ensure military mobility in peacetime and wartime

Workshop moderator

Vladimír Kampík (AŽD)

Workshop 5.2

Building resilience and adaptability for ERTMS Cybersecurity risks and mitigation: protecting ERTMS against evolving cyber threats

This workshop will explore how to build resilience and adaptability in ERTMS to protect the system against evolving cybersecurity threats. Participants will work in several discussion groups to examine solutions for a smooth transition toward a secure ERTMS environment, including how to design an efficient European transition regime. The session will also address the economic impact of cybersecurity in the railway sector, highlighting key cost drivers and practical considerations for ensuring a robust, future ready ERTMS. Key points for discussion:

- Solution for a smooth transition to a secure ERTMS environment / How to design an efficient ERTMS transition regime in Europe;
- Economic impact and cost drivers for cyber security in the railway sector;

Workshop moderators

Markus Alexander Wischy (Siemens), Oliver Knapp (DB InfraGO)

Workshop 5.3

Building resilience and adaptability for ERTMS achieving an adaptable future through the application of modular RAMS principles

This workshop will focus on how modular RAMS principles can support a more resilient and adaptable future for ERTMS. Through several group discussions, participants will explore safety processes that enable fast, frequent, and cost efficient evolution of modular CCS systems, as well as strategies for defining Generic Design Safety Cases for modular architectures. The session aims to provide practical insights into deploying modular, future proof ERTMS solutions. Key points for discussion:

- Safety process to deploy fast, frequent, and cost-efficient evolutions of modular CCS systems;
- Strategy to define Generic Design Safety Cases for modular architectures;

Workshop moderator

Julien Bois (Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking), Julien Spanneut (SNCF Voyageurs)

Workshop 6.1

Advance SERA architecture. Onboard and trackside system evolution to achieve a unified European rail network

This workshop will explore the advancement of the SERA target architecture and the evolution of both onboard and trackside systems needed to enable a truly unified European rail network. Through several group discussions, participants will review the current status and implementation roadmap of the SERA architecture, examine how CCS trackside and shared services can be simplified to reduce costs and enhance functionality, and discuss future onboard architectures designed to be modular and scalable for interoperability and digitalisation. The role of safety harmonisation in achieving SERA objectives will also be addressed, highlighting the key steps required for coherent and future proof deployment across Europe. Key points for discussion:

- The SERA target architecture: Current status and roadmap for full implementation;
- CCS trackside and shared services architecture: Simplification, cost reduction and functional improvements;
- Future onboard architecture: modular, scalable designs to support interoperability and digitalisation;
- Role of safety harmonisation in achieving SERA objectives;

Workshop moderator

Steffen Schmidt (Europe's Rail System Pillar)

Workshop 6.2

Advance SERA architecture. Solutions for Cross-Border Interoperability to achieve a unified European rail network

This workshop will address solutions to strengthen cross border interoperability as a key step toward achieving a unified European rail network under the SERA vision. Through several group discussions, participants will examine the remaining technical and operational barriers that hinder seamless cross border traffic and explore the role of standardisation and governance in overcoming these challenges. The session aims to identify practical measures and harmonised approaches that

can support an efficient, interoperable, and future proof European rail system. Key points for discussion:

- Cross-border challenges: technical and operational barriers still hindering seamless traffic;
- Role of standardisation and governance in achieving SERA objectives;

Workshop moderator

Lars Brune (DB InfraGO)

14:30 - 14:45

Change rooms

14:45 - 16:15

Workshops - Session B

For workshops 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.2, 5.3, 6.1 and 6.2: see descriptions in session A.

Please note that workshop 5.1 will **not** take place during session B.

16:15 - 16:45

Coffee break

16:45 - 18:15

Workshops - Session C

See descriptions in sessions A and B.

Please note that workshops 5.2 will **not** take place during session C.

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08:30 - 09:00

Registration and ERA Staff Welcome

09:00 - 09:30

Official opening

09:30 - 11:00

Session 1: ERTMS Status and Outlook

Objective of the session:

- Provide a high level overview of the current ERTMS deployment status in Europe.
- Highlight regulatory, technical, institutional and financial challenges impacting the roll out.
- Share the perspectives of major sector organisations on upcoming priorities.
- Facilitate a structured debate on the future direction and strategic roadmap of ERTMS.

Moderator

Speakers

- Kristian Schmidt Director Land Transport European Commission (DG MOVE)

09:30- 09:45

ERTMS Workplan

Speakers

- Matthias Ruete European ERTMS Coordinator European Commission (DG MOVE)

09:45 - 10:00

ERTMS Roadmap

Speakers

- Joachim Lücking Head of Unit Rail Safety and Interoperability European Commission (DG MOVE)

10:00- 10:15

Belgium's Program

Speakers

- Benoît Gilson Chief Executive Officer Infrabel

10:15- 10:30

CER's view

Speakers

- Alberto Mazzola Executive Director CER

10:30- 10:45

UNIFE's view

Speakers

- Enno Wiebe Director General UNIFE

10:45 - 11:00

EIM's view

Speakers

- Monika Heiming Executive Director EIM, the association of European Rail Infrastructure Managers

11:00 - 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 - 12:45

Session 2: Certification and Authorisation - Challenges On Board

Objective of the session:

- Present the main challenges facing conformity assessment bodies, vehicle owners and keepers.
- Discuss lessons learned and future improvements for Vehicle Authorisation (VA) and Trackside Authorisation (TA).
- Share operational experiences

Moderator

Speakers

- Oana Gherghinescu Executive Director ERA

11:30 - 11:45

Keepers and vehicle owners

Speakers

- Carole Coune Secretary General The Association of European Rail Rolling Stock lessors (AERRL)

11:45 - 12:00

Towards standardising national ERTMS implementation specifications

Speakers

- Titia Los Subgroup leader of CCS subgroup of NB-Rail NB-Rail

12:00- 12:15

NSAs challenges

Speakers

- Niels Brejnbjerg Buch Project Manager Trafikstyrelsen
- Julien Depuydt NSA

12:15 - 12:35

Workshop 1 feedback

Presentation

Speakers

- Juan Hernández Fernández Project Officer ERA
- Wouter Malfait Project Officer ERA

12:35 - 12:45

Questions and Answers

12:45 - 14:30

Lunch

14:30 - 16:30

Session 3: ERTMS Implementation – Deployment Programmes

Objective of the session:

- Present national deployment case studies and highlight best practices in implementation.
- Examine challenges linked to cross border operations from a railway undertaking perspective.
- Promote the role of human factors through driver experiences with ERTMS.

Moderator

Speakers

- Sverre Kjenne Managing Director EEIG ERTMS Users Group

14:40 - 14:45

Belgium: learnings from deployment

Speakers

- Yves Werner Manager Signalling Systems Infrabel

14:45 - 15:00

Denmark: learnings from deployment

Speakers

- Soledad Hernandez Rodriguez Design Authority Danish Signalling Programme

15:00 - 15:15

Railway Undertakings and Border Crossing challenges

Speakers

- Paul Hodgson Senior Business Manager CFL Cargo / CER

15:15 - 15:30

Drivers as users of ERTMS

Presentation

Speakers

- Marco Hörtenhuber-Stuhl Train driver ETF - European Transport Workers Federation
- Paolo Lauzzana Board Advisor ALE - Federation of European Train Drivers' Unions

15:30 - 15:45

ERTMS trackside certification

Speakers

- Fabio Senesi Head Research and Development RFI

15:45 - 16:00

Main Challenges of ETCS only operation in Czechia

Presentation

Speakers

- Jindřich Kušnír Director of Rail Transport Department Ministry of Transport, the Czech Republic
- Radek Čech Director of International Affairs Department Správa železnic

16:00 - 16:10

Workshop 2 report

Speakers

- Georgios Kouparousos Project Officer ERTMS Unit ERA
- Almudena Andujar Herrero Project Officer ERTMS Unit ERA

16:10 - 16:15

Workshop 6.2 report

Speakers

- Lars Brune Expert for ETCS DB InfraGO

16:15 - 16:30

Q&A

16:30 - 17:00

Coffee break

17:00 - 19:00

Session 4: FRMCS – Planning and Challenges

Moderated by: CER / ERA | Organisations participating (TBC): UIC, ERA, UNITEL, FOT, SBB, ERJU

Objective of the session:

- Present the FRMCS deployment planning, including key milestones and responsibilities.
- Review testing and validation activities involving industry and operators.
- Share FRMCS deployment experience, including national planning and operational considerations.
- Enable an expert panel discussion to address open issues

Presentation & Panel discussion

Speakers

- Marcel de la Haye Technical Director CER
- Thomas Chatelet Project Officer ERA

17:00 - 17:15

FRMCS Specifications: Planning Presentation

Speakers

- Udo Stinner FRMCS Program planning manager UIC
- Begoña Domingo Ortuño Project Officer ERA

17:15 - 17:30

Testing & Validation: Focus on FP2-MORANE-2 Presentation

Speakers

- Bernd Holfeld Coordinator of FRMCS validation activities DB InfraGO
- Michael Kloecker Solution and Portfolio Manager Railway Nokia Networks

17:30 - 17:45

Swiss Deployment FRMCS Presentation

Speakers

- Raphael Schumacher Project Manager ERTMS deployment Switzerland Swiss federal office of transport, NSA and ministry for public transport
- Marcus Thiele Programme Director ERTMS, SBB Passenger SBB CFF FFS

17:45- 17:55

Workshop debrief

Speakers

- Pascal Desaunay Head of International Projects SNCF Holding DTIPG

17:55 - 18:35

Panel discussion

Speakers

- Dan Mandoc Head of FRMCS UIC
- Karel van Gils Senior Programme Manager Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking
- Karsten Kemeter CTO for Communications Technology & Deutsche Bahn
- Michael Mikulandra Head of Products Kontron Transportation
- Marcel de la Haye Technical Director CER

18:35 - 18:50

Q&A from/to the audience

18:50 - 19:00

Today's conclusions

19:00 - 22:00

Cocktail evening

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09:00 - 09:15

Opening speech

09:15 - 11:00

Session 5: Implementation – Cost Drivers

Objective of the session:

- Provide a consolidated overview of the key cost drivers affecting ERTMS implementation.
- Present sector-wide perspectives on costs and risks for both on board and trackside projects.
- Identify unnecessary or overly burdensome elements in the conformity assessment process.

Hartwig Schuster

Moderator

Speakers

- Hartwig Schuster General Manager UNISIG

09:15 - 09:25

Workshop 3 Feedback

Speakers

- Silvia Domínguez Technical lead of the "ERTMS and digital improvements Deployment Management Team" Europe's Rail System Pillar
- Nicolas Gohel Partner Blue Arches

09:25 - 09:40

ETCS on-board cost drivers, operator's view

Presentation

Speakers

- Jean-Philippe Gachot Senior Project Manager SBB CFF FFS
- Torsten Lehnert Vice Chair AERRL

09:40 - 09:55

ETCS on-board cost drivers, supplier's view

Presentation

Speakers

- Itziar Villaro SW Design Manager CAF Signalling
- Jan Henrik Voss Program Manager SW Application OBU Siemens Mobility GmbH

09:55 - 10:10

ETCS trackside cost drivers, infrastructure manager's view

Presentation

Speakers

- Nicola Furness Engineering Expert CCS, Network Rail EIM

10:10 - 10:25

ETCS trackside cost drivers, supplier's view

Speakers

- Christian Löffler Senior Portfolio Architect – Vital Trackside Hitachi Rail

10:25 - 10:40

Standard Inputs for economic analyses

Speakers

- Giacomo Potenza Economic Evaluation Officer ERA

10:40 - 10:55

Questions and answers

11:00 - 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 - 13:15

Session 6: Outlook – Future

Objective of the session:

- Explore the balance between system stability and innovation in future ERTMS development.
- Review the evolution of interfaces with interlockings and the implications for overall architecture.
- Discuss technological pathways for “shunting without signals” and operational transformations.
- Present ATO operational experience and identify priorities for future standardisation.

Moderators

Speakers

- Giorgio Travaini Executive Director Europe’s Rail Joint Undertaking
- Ian Conlon Head of System Pillar Europe’s Rail Joint Undertaking

11:25 - 11:45

Introduction

Speakers

- Giorgio Travaini Executive Director Europe’s Rail Joint Undertaking

11:45 - 12:05

Workshop 5-6 Feedback

Speakers

- Ian Conlon Head of System Pillar Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking
- Steffen Schmidt Coregroup Member Europe's Rail System Pillar

12:05 - 12:30

Automation - progress in the field

ATO GoA3/4 in the Czech Republic

Speakers

- Vladimír Kampík European Affairs Director AŽD Praha

Remote driving and ATO GoA4 shunting movements in The Netherlands

Speakers

- Mikel Labayen Esnaola Head of Autonomous Vehicle Initiatives CAF

12:30 - 12:50

Business case for operational and technical harmonisation

Supplier perspective

Speakers

- Gemma Salazar Luque Vice President Technology and Portfolio Hitachi Rail

Railway perspective

Speakers

- Sverre Kjenne Managing Director EEIG ERTMS Users Group

12:50 - 13:05

Future partnership

Presentation

Speakers

- Wawrzyniec Perschke Policy officer European Commission (DG MOVE)
- Jo De Bosschere Head of Unit & ERTMS & Telematic Applications
ERA

13:05 - 13:15

Questions and answers

13:15 - 14:00

Session 7: Wrap up, Conclusion and Closure

Objective of the session:

- Present the main lessons learned during the ERTMS 2026 Conference.
- Highlight cross session insights and strategic messages for the sector.
- Formally close the conference and outline follow up actions.
- Provide a final moment for reflection before the concluding lunch and official end of the event.

ERTMS 2026 conference Lessons learned & closing speeches

Speakers

- Oana Gherghinescu Executive Director ERA
- Kristian Schmidt Director Land Transport European Commission (DG MOVE)
- Giorgio Travaini Executive Director Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking

14:00 - 15:00

Light lunch