

# Infrastructure

## INESS Project General meeting (Paris, 12 June)

### ERTMS compliant interlockings

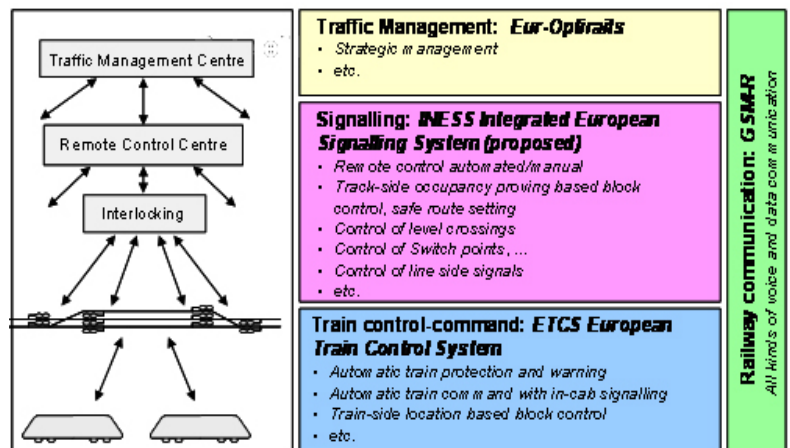
The European Union is stimulating the further development of railways as environment friendly transport system by standardisation in all relevant fields. Considerable progress has been achieved in the area of rail traffic management by means of the ERTMS programme with its major projects ETCS, GSM-R and Eur-Optirails. The roll-out has been started on high-speed as well as conventional main lines. It is becoming more and more evident that the lack of standardisation in the field of signalling is a serious hindrance which could hamper this process. For filling this gap, railways and the signalling supply industry have initiated jointly a new project: "INESS – INTEgrated European Signalling System" which is part of the 7th European Framework Programme for Research and Development. The standardisation of the operating, maintenance and supply levels of the railway industry will contribute to the opening-up of national markets and the removal of national barriers of protectionism of highly individualised practices on technical, operational and commercial levels. The project will define and develop specifications for a new generation of interlocking systems with interfaces with the adjacent subsystems such as remote control, neighbour interlocking, outdoor equipment and in particular ETCS.



From left to right: Emmanuelle Nedjar, UIC, Emmanuel Buseyne, UIC, Andy Doherty, Network Rail and Paolo de Cicco, UIC.

The INESS project will fill the gap regarding harmonised specifications within the ERTMS framework as shown in the following picture.

Via the INESS project we intend to close this gap and to actively contribute to a substantial "cost reduction" over the whole system life-cycle, to "increase the reliability, availability, maintainability and performance" of the system as a whole, to "engineer the new system in accordance with CENELEC principles" and to comply with ETCS at all application levels.



The first INESS general meeting was held at UIC HQ – Paris, 12 June last under the chairmanship of Mr Andy Doherty (Network Rail). More than 40 consortium members animated the meeting; each work stream leader played a constructive role with the objective of preparing the project start and planning its development. The Consortium agreement was one important item on the agenda. The Consortium has positively concluded the negotiation phase and the next step will be the signature of the grant agreement with the European Commission. The project will officially start after the summer period.

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