



Press Release

29 October 2021

Winners of the joint Shift2Rail and Siemens Mobility hackathon Hack2Rail announced

The winning teams of the joint Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking and Siemens Mobility hackathon Hack2Rail were announced during the Final Demo Day on 29 October 2021. The three winners were selected by a high-level jury consisting of nine members, under the patronage of Ms Adina Vălean, European Commissioner for Transport, and co-chaired by Mr Kristian Schmidt, Director of Land Transport, European Commission and Ms Rosalinde van der Vlies, Director of Clean Planet, European Commission.

After a not easy jury deliberation, considering the great ideas and proposals, the first place was awarded to **AI Powered Predictive Scheduling**, the second place was awarded to **Zero Carbon**, while the third place was awarded to **EnterTrainMe**. The winning teams will share a total cash prize of 10,000 EUR, be invited to high-level European Year of Rail events, and have the opportunity to potentially work with Siemens Mobility or any other Shift2Rail Member to bring their innovative project ideas to market deployment.

The winners will receive their prizes from Ms Adina Vălean, European Commissioner for Transport, during the Shift2Rail Innovation Days on 10 December 2021.

Commenting on the importance of rail hackathons, such as Hack2Rail, **Kristian Schmidt**, Director of Land Transport, European Commission, said: *“Rail needs to go digital to be the backbone of future sustainable mobility. This hackathon with out-of-the box solutions can unlock the much-needed potential of rail!”*

Shift2Rail’s Executive Director, **Carlo Borghini**, commented: *“On behalf of Shift2Rail, I would like to congratulate the three winning teams. It was not easy to select the winners as all ten finalists had put in a lot of work to develop their ideas. We hope the teams will continue working on their projects, hopefully together with Shift2Rail Members. Overall, we were pleased to see such engagement in Hack2Rail that shows a strong interest from start-ups, entrepreneurs and students to improve rail. This is exactly why we launched Hack2Rail, to see new ideas that could trigger the European railway.”*

Devina Pasta, Head of Digital, Tech & Innovation, Strategy at Siemens Mobility, said: *“Through innovation we drive sustainable value creation for our customers and society, with the aim of transforming mobility through technology and digitalisation. This is why we partnered with Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking for Hack2Rail – the collaboration allows us to further drive innovation by engaging with an ecosystem of creative start-ups, designers and entrepreneurs to address themes, such as improved passenger experience or optimized rail freight capacities.”*

In total over 200 participants from over 30 countries and 100 organisations submitted projects under two main topics – passenger rail and rail freight – with two challenges each. Participants could choose to work on one of the four challenges, namely seamless travel, and better stations for passengers, as well as sustainable options and efficient planners for freight. The ideas were evaluated by 14 mentors - rail experts from Shift2Rail’s Member and stakeholder representatives. In total 20 projects were selected for the hackathon which took place on 23-24 October, while ten ideas were selected for the Final Demo Day on 29 October.

The three winning teams and their ideas will also be presented to the current Shift2Rail Members and future Europe's Rail Members.

To find out more about Hack2Rail and the project ideas, please visit the following website: <https://platform.hack2rail.shift2rail.org/>.

About the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking

Shift2Rail is the first European rail public private partnership tasked with developing strategically focused research and innovation (R&I) and market-driven solutions, integrating these to create the railway systems of the future. With a total value of €920 million for the period 2014-2021, funded through the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union, Shift2Rail is promoting the competitiveness of the European rail industry, ensuring the attractiveness of rail as a safe and sustainable low carbon transport mode. This way, Shift2Rail aims to meet the changing transport/mobility needs of EU citizens and the economy.



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