



Málaga 2009  
31 March - 2 April

Press release nr 3 / 2009

## Media invitation

### UIC world conference on ERTMS to be held in Malaga, 31 March-2 April 2009

#### The conference theme: 'ERTMS - On Board and on Track'

*700 participants from all continents expected to attend this unique platform to take stock of progress, to exchange views between all stakeholders involved in the implementation and deployment, and to present an agenda for the future*

---

(Paris, 23 March 2009) The UIC ERTMS world conference is to take place in Malaga, Spain, on 31 March-2 April 2009, at the invitation of the Spanish rail infrastructure manager (ADIF), the Spanish rail operator (RENFE), the Spanish Ministry of Public Works (Ministerio de Fomento). This leading UIC conference is co-organised with the Association of the European Rail Industry (UNIFE), the ERTMS Users Group, GSM-R Industry Group and supported by the European associations, CER and EIM.

The UIC ERTMS Conference is the leading event dedicated to the ERTMS (European Railway Traffic Management System) implementation, deployment and exchange of views with users and producers. All stakeholders involved in the implementation of ETCS (European Train Control System) and GSM-R (Radio Communications Systems for Railways) will be present – more than 700 delegates from all continents. Exhibitors will include all leading companies in the fields of signalling, radio and telecommunications.

The conference theme '**ERTMS – On Board and on Track**' underlines the feasibility of making a technological leap forward in a re-organised railway environment in Europe whereby both Infrastructure Managers and Train Operating Companies (Railway Undertakings) must construct the benefits of adopting the system in the most optimum way.

*Magdalena Alvarez*, Spanish Minister of Public Works (Ministerio de Fomento), *Antonio Gonzalez Marin*, President of ADIF, *José Salgueiro Carmona*, President of RENFE, *Karel Vinck*, Coordinator of the European Commission for ERTMS, *Marcel Verslype*, Executive Director of the European Railway Agency (ERA), UIC Chairman *Mr Yoshio Ishida*, and *Mrs Béatrice Dunogué-Gaffié*, UIC Provisional Administrator, *Michele Elia*, Chief Executive of the Italian Infrastructure Manager (RFI / FS Group) and Chairman of UIC ERTMS Platform, *Michael Clausecker*, *Director General of UNIFE* together with prominent speakers from the ERTMS Users Group, GSM-R and Signalling industry will be present at the ERTMS 2009 edition.

Spain has been chosen for this 2009 edition as this country has played a leading role in the development and deployment of ERTMS and has seen the early adoption of ETCS and GSM-R in a multi-supplier environment. Spain serves nowadays as full scale test site for interoperability between track-side and on-board ETCS and GSM-R products of all European suppliers. After a difficult phase with need for solving technical problems in relation with the ETCS level 2 applications, a full brake-through has now been reached. Their experience and future outlook will offer valuable insights to all participants at the conference.

### **Technical visit**

Following an established tradition for the UIC ERTMS conferences, a technical visit will be organised on 31 March by the Spanish hosts ADIF and RENFE with a live demonstration of ERTMS on the high-speed line section between Malaga and Cordoba. Exhibitions of rolling stock and infrastructure related equipment in the stations of Malaga and Cordoba will give additional in-sights.

The UIC website [ertms2009@uic.asso.fr](mailto:ertms2009@uic.asso.fr) provides further information on key speakers, venue, practical information, press room, sponsoring and last editions.

### **For any information please contact:**

#### **Media**

Liesbeth de Jong,  
UIC Press Relations Manager  
Tel: + 33 1 44 49 20 53  
Email: [dejong@uic.asso.fr](mailto:dejong@uic.asso.fr)

Delphine Margot,  
UIC Communications Advisor  
Tel: + 33 1 44 49 20 55  
Email: [margot@uic.asso.fr](mailto:margot@uic.asso.fr)

#### **Conference organisation**

Françoise El Alaoui  
Tel: +33 1 44 49 20 62  
Email : [elalaoui@uic.asso.fr](mailto:elalaoui@uic.asso.fr)

---

### **Note to the editor:**

ERTMS, the European Rail Traffic Management System is initially a major project composed of two basic components: the European Train Control System (ETCS) a unified automatic train protection system and, GSM-R, a radio system for providing voice and data communication between track and train based on standard GSM with frequencies specifically reserved for rail application.

ERTMS aims at replacing more than 20 train control systems across Europe. This will enhance cross-border rail transport and will help to improve the overall performance and competitiveness of rail by increasing the capacity, reliability and safety.

The ERTMS (ETCS and GSM-R) specifications have been adopted by railways all over the world and are increasingly becoming a world standard for railways traffic management and safety systems. About 1360 route-km are now in commercial operation in China, India and Taiwan. Saudi Arabia will inaugurate ETCS

in spring, in Algeria and Mexico, the construction has started and will total 10,000 km in short and medium term.