



François Davenne
Director General
Tel: +33(0)1 44 49 20 10
Email: davenne@uic.org

**Members of the International Union
of railways / Union Internationale des
Chemins de fer (UIC)**

Paris, 11 June 2025

Subject: Nomination of the Chair- and Vice-Chairs for the IRRB (UIC International Rail Research Board) for a 3-year mandate starting on 1st January 2026

Dear UIC members,

The current mandate for the IRRB Chair and Vice-Chairs ends December 2025, and I would like to thank the chair-team and all the IRRB members for their personal involvement in the functioning of this important UIC Working Body. They have provided effective representation of the research, development and innovation interests towards the international community of railways.

Referring to the IRRB Terms of Reference, the call for candidates for the IRRB Chairperson and the Vice-Chairs for the 2026-2028 period will be launched on 11 June 2025 and will be closed on 12 July 2025.

The IRRB Terms of Reference of the IRRB state under articles 6.1 and 6.2 that the Chair and Vice-Chairs shall be selected for 3 years for their expertise in Research and/or their business perspective of the innovation and development needs of the sector. The respective terms of office of Chair and Vice-Chairs shall be conferred personally and not to the UIC member company to which they belong. Terms of office shall last for 3 years, renewable only once for the same role. It is also stated that the IRRB chairmanship team shall be appointed in accordance with Article 5.5, paragraph 15 of the UIC Statutes, based upon a proposition made by the IRRB members to the UIC Director-General.

I would like to stress the importance of compliance with the UIC IRRB Statutes when applying for the position of Chair or Vice-Chair. The IRRB Steering Committee will be involved in the process and the Candidates will also be presented at the IRRB Plenary Session. Then, based on the IRRB recommendations, they will be presented by the UIC Director General at the UIC General Assembly. The Term of Office for the elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairs - Members of the IRRB Steering Committee will take effect from 01 January 2026.

Please inform me about your interest in functioning as the Chair or as a Vice-Chair of the IRRB by 12 July 2025 at the latest, in order to organise the official assessment process. The UIC is keen that all UIC Regions are represented on the IRRB Steering Committee, so please identify the Region you wish to represent in your covering letter. In support of your application, please consider the following criteria:

- Knowledge of the research and innovation priorities globally and in the candidate's region of origin
- Experience in establishing networks with researchers in the candidate's region of origin
- Willingness to act as a representative for the Region with support from the UIC Member for travel and time allocation.

The UIC IRRB is keen to involve ambitious early career scientists or professionals and those with extensive experience in R&I processes or strategists to ensure a balanced approach for the railway development through research and innovation IRRB activities. Please express your interest by sending a brief **Cover letter, Professional curriculum vitae and at least one Letter of Support from the railway organisation (UIC member)** to the UIC: irrb@uic.org (in CC: UIC Head of Research and Innovation: fojud@uic.org).

Yours faithfully,



François DAVENNE
Director General