

Testing and trialling

Frequently asked questions

Why has this website been produced?

The website is designed to provide a facility to share knowledge and good practice about testing and trialling in order to promote more efficient introduction of new technology. Efficient testing and trialling using affordable and readily available facilities could enable technical innovation in the rail industry.

When compared with other modes of travel, rail provides substantial benefits in terms of environmental performance and urban regeneration. To secure these benefits for the longer-term and indeed enhance them, rail has to become more sustainable, particularly in light of the current economic climate. To make the necessary changes efficiently requires effective innovation and in turn, effective testing and trialling, to ensure risks are appropriately managed when new technology is introduced.

Is there any other associated work in support of facilitating testing and trialling?

A baselining survey, industry research on enabling innovation, and industry workshops during 2010 have supported approval for a number of initiatives that should facilitate access to testing facilities. The findings from this earlier work are available at:

T934 Enabling technical innovation in the GB rail industry - barriers and solutions (http://www.rssb.co.uk/RESEARCH/Lists/DispForm_Custom.aspx?ID=910)

T933 Test and trial facilities UK - Baselining (http://www.rssb.co.uk/RESEARCH/Lists/DispForm_Custom.aspx?ID=1022)

The Testing Facilities Steering Group is also developing further work to look at the opportunities for accepting test results from other environments, and to better understand the commercial barriers and risks that limit testing and trialling activities.

Who is the website designed for?

The website is aimed at anyone who has an interest in testing and trialling and should be of particular benefit to:

- Those thinking of commissioning tests or trials, particularly those working for a railway undertaking or an infrastructure manager who has not done this before.

- Test house and facility operators, by conveying to clients the sort of issues that need to be thought about when approaching them to discuss potential tests.
- Those who are developing new technology for Britain's railway, particularly those new to the industry or seeking to gain a foothold in it.

Is the list of facilities complete? If not what happens next?

The facilities listed represent a range of organisations that RSSB and TFSG members approached to provide an initial set of information to assist with the website design and functionality testing. In the months leading up to the official launch the website was made publicly available and a number of organisations found the facility and offered additional information. One of the main aims of the official launch is to raise the profile and awareness of this facility and highlight the opportunity for other facility owners to put forward information that they would like to see included.

I have facilities that I can make available to third parties. How do I get this information included on the website?

A blank testing and trialling facilities form is available at the link below. This can be completed and sent to the email address at the bottom of the form.

http://www.futurerailway.org/Documents/TandT_documents/Rail_knowledge_portal_form.docx.

The website makes reference to TSLG and TFSG. Who are they and what do they do?

TSLG - The Technical Strategy Leadership Group is a cross-industry expert body made up of senior executive staff. It is charged with developing and championing implementation of the Rail Technical Strategy, supporting communication, managing strategic research, identifying opportunities, barriers and actions. Critically, TSLG is investing energy in creating an environment within the rail industry in which technical innovation is embraced and that will build supplier confidence in the business case for innovation.

TFSG - The Testing Facilities Steering Group is a sub-group of TSLG and is leading work to unlock innovation in GB rail through

a number of initiatives that should facilitate access to testing and trialling facilities.

I have read the electronic version of the Guide and would like to obtain some hard copies. Where are they available?

Copies of the guide are available from the RSSB offices.

Email: enquirydesk@rssb.co.uk

What standards does the rail industry need to test to? How can I get the appropriate certifications, if I need them?

Information to address both of these questions is included in the Guide with more detail available through the 'further contacts' listed in Section 10 of the Guide.