

# Testing and trialling

Unlocking innovation potential in  
Britain's rail industry

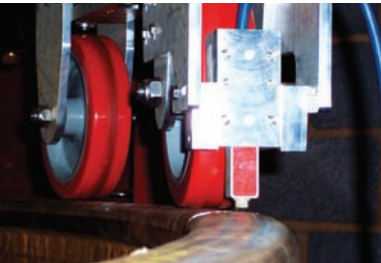


# Unlocking innovation potential



## Why do testing and trialling?

*Testing is a vital component in the development of new technology, taking it from a concept to something fully operational.*



The railways are a technological success story with a rich history of generating and applying practical solutions. When compared with other modes of travel, rail provides substantial benefits in terms of environmental performance and urban regeneration. However, rail has to become more sustainable, particularly in light of the current economic climate. Its working 30-year vision is to double capacity and maximise customer satisfaction of rail while halving cost and carbon at the same time.



Rail will need to turn to technology to help it meet these challenges, which in turn will need a culture of innovation. Effective innovation requires effective testing and trialling to ensure risks are appropriately managed when new technology is introduced. Testing enables a technology to progress from a concept through to something proven and accepted in the operational environment.

As part of a 2010 consultation on industry's Rail Technical Strategy, the need to enable innovation emerged as one of the key issues. This led the rail industry to identify a need to pool and present its combined knowledge on testing and trialling. In turn, the cross-industry Technical Strategy Leadership Group (TSLG) asked RSSB to develop good practice guidance and a database of testing and trialling facilities contacts, overseen by the Testing Facilities Steering Group.

# A new place to go for information



## Where to go on the web

The GB rail industry has a new shared hub of information on testing and trialling.

**www.futurerailway.org**  
and click on Testing and Trialling Facilities

The screenshot shows the TSLG website interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Strategic Research, Publications, Technical Strategy, Enabling Innovation, Testing and Trialling Facilities, and Transport TIC Proposal. The main heading is "Testing and trialling facilities". Below this, there are sections for "Supporting Documents" (including Website promotional flyer, Website presentation, Good Practice Guide, Frequently Asked Questions, and New test and trialling facilities form) and "Global Links" (including SPARK). A search bar is present with "Search" and "Reset Search" buttons. Below the search bar is a table of "Test Facilities" with columns for Name of Test Facility, Operator, Country, and Keyword. The table lists several facilities, including those operated by Barrow Hill Ltd, DeltaRail Group Ltd, East Lancashire Railway Company Limited, and innovITS.

**Database of capabilities and contacts for testing and trialling facilities**

**Good practice on testing and trialling**

**Frequently asked questions and presentation**

# Good practice in testing and trialling

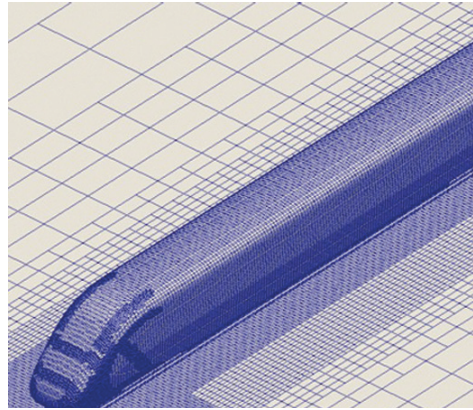


## Download the rail industry's collective advice – based on experience

This guide has been developed to share good practice on testing and trialling in order to promote more efficient introduction of new technology. It is aimed at anyone who has an interest in testing and trialling, whether they have considerable experience in the rail sector or are new to it.

It should be of particular interest to:

- Those thinking of commissioning tests or trials, particularly those working for a Railway Undertaking or Infrastructure Manager who haven't done this before.
- Test house and facility operators by conveying to a new client 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 foot hold in it.



## Testing and trialling



Good practice guide for  
testing and trialling new technology  
for Britain's railways

# Be part of it



## Share your experience and details

Contact [enquirydesk@rssb.co.uk](mailto:enquirydesk@rssb.co.uk) to get in touch with RSSB for:

- **Details of how to add testing and trialling facilities to the database**
- **Questions about the website and good practice guide**
- **Feedback on the information provided**



Do you operate testing facilities in Britain?

Do you want your details in the database?

Get in touch to make sure you're listed!

# About the industry

*These shared resources on testing and trialling have been produced through cross-industry collaboration.*



## Testing Facilities Steering Group

The Testing Facilities Steering Group coordinated this work. The group comprises Network Rail, the Association of Train Operating Companies, the Railway Industry Association, Interfleet, Serco, London Underground, RSSB and the Department for Transport. It is facilitated by RSSB on industry's behalf.

## RSSB

RSSB is a member-driven organisation, owned by the rail industry. Its membership includes Network Rail, train and freight operating companies as well as rolling stock companies and suppliers. As a natural place for the industry to build consensus, and being independent of any one company, RSSB has become a hub for groups containing representatives from across the breadth of the industry –including TSLG and the Testing Facilities Steering Group.