A 30-year vision

Britain needs a technologically-enabled railway that delivers efficient, affordable, flexible, and attractive transportation for the record number of customers who now use it. The amount and speed of change needed to meet the challenges faced by the industry requires looking beyond conventional solutions and toward the transformative power of technology.

The industry’s vision for how technology can be used to create a better railway is called the Rail Technical Strategy (RTS). As the strategy is deliberately broad and visionary, it is accompanied by a delivery plan which breaks the strategy down into smaller component parts and sets out what activities need to happen by when in order to meet key milestones on the path to creating the industry’s vision of a transformed railway of the future.

To deliver our Rail Technical Strategy (RTS), the industry must unite behind a single plan. This is it.

Graeme Hopkins, Chairman of the Technology Strategy Leadership Group

Transforming the railway

Delivering a railway fit for the challenges of the future will take concerted and coordinated effort from the whole railway industry and its supply chain. That means it is your strategy and your delivery plan and we need your input to make sure everyone is able to play their part in the transformation of the railway. Please join in the conversation.

Rail Technical Strategy
Capability Delivery Plan

The Rail Technical Strategy (RTS) is the industry’s vision of a modernised railway of the future. It is accompanied by a delivery plan which breaks the strategy down into component parts and suggest priority areas for investment. At its core are twelve key industry capabilities vital to the development, deployment, and delivery of the RTS vision.

Find out more

rts@rssb.co.uk
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12 Key Capabilities

01 Running Trains closer together
Running trains closer together will increase the capacity of the railway.

02 Minimal disruption to train services
Predictive and preventative maintenance, plus faster repair times, will improve the reliability and availability of the railway.

03 Efficient passenger flow through stations and trains
Smarter ticketing and human-centred design will make moving through stations and trains easier and quicker reducing overcrowding at busy stations.

04 More value from data
Data collection and real-time information that helps rail staff to make better decisions and provides customers with useful and up-to-date information.

05 Optimum energy use
Intelligent distribution and energy storage technologies will deliver more cost-effective use of energy on the railway.

06 More space on trains
More generous and flexible train interiors that better meet the different and changing demands of customers.

07 Services timed to the second
Knowing the exact location and speed of all trains in real time will improve situational awareness, increase operational flexibility and allow for faster recovery from disruption.

08 Intelligent trains
Intelligent trains will be aware of themselves and their surroundings, knowing where they need to be and when, and able to automatically adjust journeys to meet demand.

09 Personalised customer experience
Providing customers with tailored information and services so that travel by rail becomes a seamless part of their overall journey.

10 Low-cost railway solutions
Railway lines and trains which are designed, built and operated at low cost will make lightly used lines viable and allow rail to compete for new transport links.

11 Accelerated research, development and technology deployment
Enabling technologies to be more readily and rapidly integrated into the railway system by creating the environment for increased R&D investment, technology demonstration and removing barriers to the adoption of new technology.

12 Flexible freight
Trains designed to carry varying loads, combined with better planning and tracking capabilities, will increase flexibility and capacity for freight customers.