

[News story: Resilient technologies to improve UK railways: apply for funding](#)

[The UK rail industry transported 1.7 billion passengers and 110 billion tonnes of freight between 2017 and 2018.](#)

New technologies are needed to help meet passenger needs, offer better journeys and increase sustainability in rail services.

£5.5 million is available from the [Department for Transport](#) for organisations to develop 'first of a kind' demonstrators. These should use existing technologies and develop these further for the rail industry.

This is a Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) competition.

Rail Minister Andrew Jones said:

We have already seen some truly innovative projects developed for the benefit of passengers in these competitions, helping to drive forward a greener, cleaner and more reliable rail network.

This additional funding will spark even more innovation and ideas that deliver for commuters.

We are also investing £48 billion to modernise our railways over the next 5 years, ensuring people have the safe, frequent and punctual journeys they deserve.

Improving resilience

The competition aims to reduce costs, double capacity, lower carbon emissions and improve customer experiences.

It is across 4 themes:

- infrastructure resilience, including protection against adverse weather conditions
- operational resilience, such as using data to inform train maintenance activities
- freight, including improved routing and tracking capabilities
- noise and environment, including innovations mitigating engine noise

16 projects are expected to be funded across all 4 themes.

Projects should produce an interactive and innovative demonstrator that shows rail industry stakeholders and customers how a technology will work in a real-world rail environment. This can be:

- within a railway station
- in rolling stock
- on railway infrastructure
- in the environment close to the railway

Competition information

- the competition opens on 25 February 2019 and the deadline for registration is at midday on 17 April 2019
- organisations of any size are eligible to apply, working alone or collaborating with others as subcontractors
- total eligible costs can be between £250,000 and £350,000 including VAT
- projects will be 100% funded
- briefing events will be held in London on 26 February 2019, Manchester on 28 February 2019 and Cardiff on 7 March 2019, where organisations can find out more about making an application