

# Green light from Council for rail and air research

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**Almost one billion euro will be allocated to rail research in 2014-2020 under a new public-private partnership**



Research will focus on the development of a new generation of high-speed trains

undertaking will manage a research and innovation programme with the Commission and partner industries, and should be ready to launch at the beginning of 2015.

In all, almost one billion euro will be allocated to rail research, with €450 million provided by the Community budget (Horizon 2020). Equipment manufacturers, such as Alstom, Bombardier, Siemens and Thales, are among the founding members of the joint undertaking, with a total of over a hundred companies participating.

Research will focus particularly on

the development of a new generation of high-speed trains, improving traffic management systems, and improving the quality of infrastructure (noise reduction, smart maintenance). Unlike classic rail research carried out so far at EU level, the results will be close to the market, with work focusing on prototypes. The goal is to provide products that are almost 'finished', which is why rail operators – such as Deutsche Bahn and SNCF, as well as infrastructure managers, who are the end-users of these products – are involved in the project. The first results are expected in 2018-2019.

## SESAR FOR AIR TRAFFIC

Another 'research PPP' also received the green light from the Council on the same day: SESAR, which is developing a new system of air traffic management. This means prolonging the life cycle of the joint enterprise from 2016 to 2024. The budget for this PPP will be increased to €585 million. ■