

**THE RAIL
INNOVATION
GROUP**

The logo is a 3D graphic in white with a dark blue shadow, set against a dark blue background. It features the text 'THE RAIL INNOVATION GROUP' in a bold, sans-serif font. The words are arranged in three lines: 'THE RAIL' on top, 'INNOVATION' in the middle, and 'GROUP' at the bottom. A large, white, double-headed arrow is positioned vertically, passing through the center of the word 'INNOVATION'.

ABOUT US

WHO ARE WE?

WHAT DO WE DO?

- MEET UPS**
- RECOGNISED INNOVATION SCHEME**
- START UP RAIL**

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WHO ARE WE?

The Group was founded in 2016 to:

1. Provide a neutral space for cross industry collaboration - **Meet Ups**.
2. Help rail adapt & prepare for future mobility services - **Recognised Innovation Scheme**.
3. Find & promote new types of suppliers - **Start Up Rail**.

"The Rail Innovation Group offers a fun, friendly network of like-minded companies & professionals. Since joining as a Founding Member it's been amazing for our company, supporting us to expand & find new opportunities within & outside the railway."

Ben Craze
CEO & Co-Founder, Infinitive Group

The Rail Innovation Group is an independent not-for-profit community established to help build the tech ecosystem in rail. The Group's overarching aims are to facilitate cross industry conversation & collaboration & support start-up & small companies to supply into rail.

Our activities are steered by our desire to implement meaningful changes to the rail sector with the aim of inspiring diversity & culture change, encouraging innovation, building digital supply chains within UK regions, & developing a data-driven, consumer-focused service.

We support the start up & SME economy by providing support to innovative suppliers on their journey through the rail sector. We connect suppliers with the wider industry context & help our community to find routes to market.

Our initiatives are aligned with the **Rail Sector Deal** to deliver improvements in:

- The passenger experience - we are particularly focused on the role of technology to improve information systems & promote the delivery of Mobility as a Service.
- The economy - we recognise the role of technology in making it easier for people to travel
- The rail industry supply chain - we recognise the need to grow & bring diversity to the rail sector which, can only be done by our programme of actively seeking out the start-ups.

We're helping the Government meet its target to get 33% of public spending to SMEs by 2022!

MEET UPS

We host monthly networking **Meet Ups** to facilitate relationship building & share knowledge among attendees from the rail & tech industries.

We bring the community to dynamic company spaces to hear from our hosts, or guest speakers, about new tech & services, share our experience of successful projects delivery & consider lessons learnt.

Attendees include rail operators, infrastructure companies, planners, advisory organisations, large suppliers, train manufacturers, start up, small & large tech companies.

Speakers have included future mobility leaders, rail operators, heads of innovation, trade bodies reps, product developers, customer experience designers & small business leaders.



For spring 2020 we've moved online for our weekly **Munch & Learn** virtual sessions, inviting speakers relevant to the current business environment to share their experience of innovating in periods of diversity, demonstrating that there are opportunities even in an unsettled climates. Presenters have included HS2 innovation leads, rail operators, aviation professionals, creative design coaches, & research funding advisors.



RECOGNISED INNOVATION SCHEME

The **Recognised Innovation Scheme** endorses suppliers & people who have:

- contributed to our mission of promoting modern, efficient rail system.
- demonstrated an ability to create a seamless journey experience.
- adopted a customer-centric approach & committed to sharing that approach with the wider industry.

Recognition is reviewed against our definitions of innovation, drawn from our Founding Members:

Suppliers

“ A simple solution, large or small, that breaks with tradition to solve a problem within the industry that can be adopted into business as usual. Examples in the use of technology are to:

Gain efficiencies in time, energy or costs or to improve the user experience.

In most cases, the problem will have been defined by the end-user but truly innovative products discover their niche.

Culture

“ To approach problems with a willingness to challenge tradition & be open minded to new concepts that don't always have proven track record.

To cultivate & embrace diversity to derive benefits from new technologies or processes, or from using them in a better way.

The **Recognised Innovation Scheme** is supported by Hitachi Rail Ltd.



START UP RAIL

Start Up Rail is our initiative to seek out new tech companies & provide insight & advice to draw them into the rail supply chain. We do this by travelling to nationwide tech communities & meeting small companies to discover interesting products they're developing, whether or not they are intended for the rail sector.

By providing an introduction to the opportunities for growth & success in rail, we can entice these suppliers to work towards bring their best ideas into the rail space. These new suppliers benefit from our core activities to expand their network within the rail sector & learn about new opportunities to grow their business.

We actively seek to partner with private & public sector organisations to deliver the programme.



Nadhim Zahawi MP, alongside The Rail Innovation Group's Deb Carson, Johannah Randall & Liam Henderson at the launch of Start Up Rail, January 2020

"There are a huge number of exciting opportunities across the sector. The Rail Innovation Group's Start Up Rail programme will help to unleash the potential of UK tech communities to meet national challenges & promote global opportunities for even the newest UK businesses."

Nadhim Zahawi MP, Minister of Business & Industry

MEMBERSHIP

We invite all those who are committed to our mission to become a Member of the Group. As our profile has grown & we have nurtured our links with stakeholders around the sector, Membership is an excellent way to benefit from our network.

The 2020 annual Membership rate is: Start Up: £240 / SME: £720 / Corporate: £1440 – Membership Includes:

Access to our Advisors* – We have experts on hand to give advice on:

- building your pitch to an operator.
- rail & station operations.
- equality & diversity requirements.
- building key relationships.
- R&D tax credits.
- Customer engagement (CRM).

Mentoring* – We can support Members with online guidance or in-person counsel (where geographically appropriate).

Social Media – we'll help to spread positive news of innovation in rail.

Meet Ups – Priority access to our events & the chance to host to share with the community what your company has to offer.

Podcasts – we invite Members to join us as guests on our podcast – What Moves Us – to discuss how their business is helping to change how we move. We have over 1,000 listeners.

Website Listing – Members are featured on our website & appear in our online Innovation Library, alongside their definition of innovation & a link to their website.

Promoting our Members – We are often contacted by event organisers and industry stakeholders, keen to hear first-hand from those companies innovating rail. Our Members benefit from these speaking opportunities & conference opportunities.

Publication of Articles – Members are entitled to write original thought pieces to contribute to the Group's aims, we'll publish them on our channels.

“One Big Circle first joined Rail Innovation Group in July 2019 to become involved with the innovators & explorers of the rail industry, to engage with & learn from them. Being part of Rail Innovation Group has helped accelerate our work within the rail industry & we are delighted to be part of such a dynamic & exciting group.”

Emily Kent, Co-Founder, One Big Circle

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

We continue to seek to build long term Strategic Partnerships with larger organisations/Tier 1 companies. This not only enables us to support small companies on a sustainable footing through our varied programme, but also - importantly for partners - means that we can tailor what we do to complement your values as a business, as well as your innovation aspirations - giving you access to a grass roots network of suppliers new to the industry, and the opportunity be part of the government's commitment to expand the support opportunities for small suppliers entering the rail supply chain.

Strategic Partners can leverage from our community & network.

Our community & wider network has the skills, technology & creativity that can be harnessed by proactive large organisations. We are keen to help both small suppliers & larger organisations by building the network & making these connections.

Building a long term partnership means that we can develop bespoke, tailored programmes to support our Strategic Partners.

We want to work with our partners to respond to their supply chain & wider community ambitions. Our Members bring the digital skills, tech knowledge & creativity to help our partners lead innovation to prepare for rail's role in the future mobility network.

Partnering with The Rail Innovation Group will help support our core activities. It will continue to demonstrate to potential new rail suppliers that the rail industry is receptive to their innovations & that there are clear routes to market through larger enterprises.

Our partnership with Hitachi has helped them discover new suppliers close to their regional operational sites . We developed a targeted set of events to help the company find new suppliers developing technologies to support their work in specific focus areas.

CONTACT US

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Podcast: [What Moves Us](#)

