

# MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 12.00 AM 28 November 2018

## SMART RAIL ROUTE MAP INTERIM REPORT LAUNCHED

The Smart Rail Route Map Interim Report identifying a long-term common view of priorities, themes, timelines and actions to support the successful deployment of digital and telecommunication technologies within the rail sector has been launched by the ARA at AusRail 2018 Conference and Exhibition.

Produced in collaboration with industry, and supported by the Rail Manufacturing Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) and Deakin University, the Interim Report provides a 30 year guide for helping the rail industry plan for the rapidly changing technology landscape.

The Route Map sets out the long term, coordinated and strategic direction to support the adoption and deployment of telecommunications and technology-based systems within the rail sector that are more flexible, connected and interoperable.

ARA CEO Danny Broad said "With the technological revolution surging around the globe it is difficult to predict how rail systems will look in 30 years' time. We can however prepare for these changes by providing an overarching framework through which the next generation of rail technologies can be deployed, supported and integrated."

"Inherent in this is an understanding of the risks and obstacles that are likely to emerge. In a changing technological paradigm, Smart Rail provides a framework in relation to standardisation, integration and harmonisation," said Mr Broad.

Smart Rail was developed by industry, for industry with over 250 industry representatives involved in its creation. It has been fantastic to witness the high level of industry engagement," said Mr Broad.

The Smart Rail Route Map includes 10 priority actions and initiatives grouped into 4 focus areas: Passenger Customer Experience; Freight Customer Experience; Traffic and Network Management and High performance Railways; and 12 longer-term initiatives.

"The Route Map is a technology neutral framework communicated in a non-technical manner and owned by industry. It defines the rail industry direction, development initiatives and research programs for integration and support of next-generation digital and telecommunications technologies in Australia and New Zealand rail environment," said Professor Douglas Creighton from Deakin's Institute for Intelligent Systems Research and Innovation

"The key to Smart Rail is that it is an industry-led initiative involving a large cross section of the rail sector. Collaboration of this kind is the first step to ensure the outcomes of Smart Rail are implemented and will add value to Australasia's rail industry," said Dr Stuart Thomson, Chief Executive Officer, of the Rail Manufacturing CRC.

Deakin University has brought their systems-modelling approach to this work, while the Rail Manufacturing CRC is providing funding under the Government's Business Cooperative Research Centres Program.

The ARA will be establishing an executive management committee to drive this important initiative forward. Copies of the interim Report are at [www.smartrail.net.au](http://www.smartrail.net.au)

The ARA welcomes feedback prior to finalising the report in December 2018.

28 November 2018

For ARA media contact Malcolm Larsen 0423 783 66

