

Juan de Dios Sanz Bobi has more than 20 years experience in R&D railway activities. Working from 1992 to 2001 in ALCATEL ESPAÑA - train detection and protection division; from 2001 closely to the academia, firstly in the Foundation for Innovation in the Industry (F2I2); then, from 2006, as professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department - Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM). He has participated as expert designed by AENOR (National Body for Standardization) in different CEN-CENELEC workgroups, but also as Technical Expert Project under UNESCO codes 3323 and 3317. He is member of the Spanish Railway Technology Platform, PTFE, acting as chairman of the rail Freight working group and member of its Executive Board.

Angela Di Febbraro, Ph.D. full professor of Transportation Engineering at the University of Genoa (Italy), Department of Mechanical, Energy, Management, and Transportation Engineering. Born in 1963 in Genoa, Italy, she got a Laurea Degree in Electronic Engineering (1987), and PhD in Electronic and Computer Engineering, both at the University of Genoa. At a European level, she currently holds the office of Italian National Delegate in the Horizon 2020 Programme Committee of the Societal Challenge “Smart, green, and integrated transport”. Author of more than 200 scientific papers, mostly published in international journals/conferences. Involved in several research projects. Transport research interests focused on major aspects about planning, control, and optimisation at a system-level (special reference to safety, sustainability, intermodality, and Intelligent Transport Systems).

Jana Pieriegud, Ph.D. is a transport economist with a railway engineering and management background. She has been working at the Department of Transport at Warsaw School of Economics (SGH) since September 2001. Her research interests include a wide variety of aspects of railway transport as well as interdisciplinary issues (e.g. transport, economics, management, technology, environment). She has published over 120 articles and book chapters, and she has co-authored numerous studies. She is a member of the Transport Economists' Group (TEG, UK) and the Strategic and Competitive Intelligence Professionals (SCIP, USA).

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr. h.c. mult. Eckehard Schnieder (born in 1949) graduated in electrical engineering at Technische Universität Braunschweig (Germany) in 1972. Until 1979 he was research associate at the same university and received his Dr.-Ing. From 1979 until 1989 he worked with Siemens, where he was head of the development of the automatic operation control system for the German maglev as well as for the Siemens people mover. From 1989 to 2014 he was a full professor at Technische Universität Braunschweig where he headed the renowned Institute of Traffic Safety and Automation Engineering. He directed the first formal modeling of the European Train Control System (ETCS) and did basic research on satellite based train control. Since 1998 he acts as licensed assessor of the German Railway Authority. He is visiting professor of European and Asian Universities and received three honorary doctorates and several other awards. (See also https://www.iva.ing.tu-bs.de/?iT=5_797&id=1&newNLS=en)

Christos Pyrgidis (born in January 1957 in Thessaloniki, Greece) holds a diploma in Civil Engineering from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUth). He specialized for 5 years at the Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées, Paris, in Transportation Infrastructure, Transport Economics and Railway Engineering (C.E.S., D.E.A., Doctorat (PhD)). He is professor in Railway Engineering in the Civil Engineering Department of AUth. He has published many articles in scientific journals and international congresses and is the author of the book “Transportation Systems: Infrastructure, Rolling Stock, Operation”, (in Greek). He has participated in many research railway projects and studies and he has worked as consultant to several railway organisations. He was the Greek representative to the Administrative Board of ERA for 2004 to 2007 and he is member of the ERRAC Academia PAG.

Sebastian Stichel is Professor, Rail Vehicle Dynamics, Department of Aeronautical and Vehicle Engineering KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden, and holds a B.S and a M.S. in Vehicle Engineering from Technische Universität Berlin. He also holds a PhD in Vehicle Dynamics from TU Berlin. Dr. Stichel is full professor at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm since 2010. Since 2011 he is director of the KTH Railway Group. Since April 2013 he is also vice chairman of the Department of Aeronautical and Vehicle Engineering. From 2000 to 2010 Dr. Stichel was employed at Bombardier Transportation in Sweden where he headed the Vehicle Dynamics department in the Mainline and Metros division. Dr. Stichel has a primary research interest in the dynamic vehicle-track interaction mainly using multibody simulation. Main concerns are improved ride comfort and reduced wheel and track damage. He is also involved in research on the interaction between pantograph and catenary.

Simon Iwnicki is Professor of Railway Engineering at the University of Huddersfield in the UK where he is Director of the Institute of Railway Research (IRR). The IRR has an international reputation for excellent research and support to industry in the core area of railway vehicle dynamics modelling, wheel-rail interface engineering and vehicle-track interaction. From 2010 to 2014 Professor Iwnicki was the academic co-chair of RRUKA (the Rail Research UK Association) and is currently Chairman of the Railway Division of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. He is Editor in Chief of Part F of the Proceedings of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (the Journal of Rail and Rapid Transit) and Editor (responsible for railway matters) of the journal Vehicle System Dynamics. He has over 100 publications including the ‘Handbook of Railway Vehicle Dynamics’ which includes contributions from many of the leading experts in the established text in this field.

Manuel Seabra Pereira, Dipl.-Ing., PhD., Habil., Professor, graduated in 1972 in Mechanical Engineering at the Instituto Superior Técnico, Technical University of Lisbon and subsequently obtained the PhD degree at Imperial College in 1977 in London, England. Accomplished world-renowned academic career reaching a full professorship position and being appointed Vice-Rector for Scientific Affairs at the Technical University of Lisbon. As one of the leaders of a research group at the Transport Research Division in the Associated Laboratory of Aerospace, Energy and Transports have been extensively engaged in

consultancy and research and established international contacts with leading international research institutions and major industrial companies in railway dynamics, pantograph/catenary systems, crashworthiness techniques for reconstruction of accidents and structural design of carbody shells.

Mehmet Turan Söylemez (member of IEEE, IFAC and TOK) was born in Turkey (TR) in 1971. He received the BSc degree in control and computer engineering in 1991 from Istanbul Technical University (ITU), Turkey, and the MSc and PhD degrees in control engineering from the University of Manchester Inst. of Sci. and Tech. (UMIST), U.K., in 1994 and 1999, respectively. He had worked at the Electrical Eng. Dept. of ITU between 2000 and 2008, when he was transferred to the Control and Automation Eng. Dept. of the same university. He is currently a full professor in the same department. He worked as the vice dean of Electrical and Electronics Eng. Faculty between 2010 and 2013, and has been the chair of Railway Eng. Dept. of the Graduate School of Science Engineering and Technology of ITU since 2013. He has been involved in several projects related with railways, including the Turkish National Railway Signalling Project, and is the author of more than 120 scientific papers and a book.

Francois Lacôte graduated from Ecole Polytechnique & Ecole des Ponts et Chaussées, spent his whole professional activity in the railway field, first at SNCF (1974-2000), then at Alstom (2000-2014). He started in the maintenance sector, before he was appointed (1982) as leader of the TGV Development program & as such, responsible for the three generations of TGV's. Between 1997 and 2000, as Vice-President R&D SNCF, Chairman of AEIF (1998) and ERRI, he was involved in the European R&D programs. In 2000, he joined Alstom as CTO in charge of Technical developments and innovation. He led the world speed record of 574,8km/h, as well as the development of AGV. He received the UNIFE-CER European Railway Award, as « designer of the TGV », in 2012, and, in 2014, the UIC Award for Research and Innovation. He retired recently, but is still Professor for Railway engineering and, of course, highly interested in railway innovation.

Professor Chris Nash is Research Professor in the Institute for Transport Studies, University of Leeds (ITS); he was Director of ITS for seven years. He works primarily on road and rail transport economics and policy, including pricing, regulation and project appraisal. He has been coordinator of six EU framework programme research projects including UNITE, GRACE and Imprint-Europe, and contributed to many more, including currently SUSTRAIL. He has acted as specialist advisor to many organisations, including the European Commission High Level Group on Infrastructure Charging, OECD and the Transport and European Union Select Committees of the British Parliament. Recent work includes studies of rail investment policy for the Chinese Ministry of Railways and the World Bank, competition in rail passenger transport for the British rail regulator and vertical separation in railways for the Community of European Railways. On high speed rail, he acted as advisor to HS2 and Network Rail in the UK, to the Department of Infrastructure and Transport in Australia, and serves as a member of the Transportation Research Board committee examining the issue in the US. He is Associate Editor of the Journal of Rail Transport Planning and Management.

Prof. Ing. Tatiana Molkova, Ph.D., is graduated from the College of Transport and Communication in Zilina (Slovakia) in 1989. Since 1993, she has been teaching and doing research at Transport Faculty of the University of Pardubice, since 2014 as full Professor in the field of Technology and Management in Transport and Telecommunications. Since 2010 she has been Vice-Rector of the University of Pardubice. Her research activities are oriented on railway research in these fields - advanced traffic control and management, safety railway operation, capacity issues, services in freight and passenger railway transport including telematics application, Quality Management Systems in transport. Nowadays she is also focusing on education and training for railway. She was involved to Transport Advisory Board FP7 EU (2007-2010), since 2010 she has been one of Pole Leaders of EURNEX association; she is a member of ERRAC Academia PAG.