



Network Statement Checker

Direct access to network infrastructure characteristics for efficient route planning

Integration of information is the key for further growth of railway transport volume. Decision makers will be able to make better decisions once they have the right information at hand about their own processes and about the processes of their partners in business. InteGRail is the project that developed an enabling technology to allow universal access to existing information systems, be it databases, monitoring systems or existing user applications. For this purpose InteGRail defined a standard approach for architecture and communication. Using this standard approach a number of example applications were developed. One of these applications is the Network Statement Checker, which allows an operator or a One-Stop-Shop to have direct access to all the network information they need to plan a new railway service.



What is the Network Statement Checker?

The Network Statement Checker is a web based application that allows on-line access to the Network Statements of national infrastructure managers. The user of the tool can select a route on the European railway map and can find information about the characteristics of each track section on a route. This tool provides information needed to determine whether a route can be used for a new future railway service an operator intends to offer to his customers.

Who can benefit?

The operator's commercial department can now sort out possible routes and customer propositions more easily, while the planning department can more efficiently optimise a possible route and rolling stock usage.

The Infrastructure Manager's One-Stop-Shop (OSS) can deal with a request from an operator quicker and can be more efficient in providing advice on usable routes. Moreover, the OSS's now have a uniform interface to the Network Statements of all other Infrastructure Managers.

Which benefit?

In the present railway situation, the information this tool deals with can be found in each country's individual Network Statement. It is obligation of each Infrastructure Manager to publish this document annually. The Network Statements of each country have the same structure, but the information itself is not provided according to any standard. This makes retrieval and analysis of the network information, needed when planning a new route, a time-consuming activity. The Network Statement Checker will reduce the time and effort needed for this information retrieval and analysis, which brings a saving in service preparation cost. It can also be expected that less errors will occur, which will be beneficial for the robustness of the resulting route and timetable.

Present status, availability and future possibilities

To be able to demonstrate the cross-border capabilities of the Network Statement Checker, information for the Dutch and Belgium railway networks were used. These two countries' information sources are a starting point only. Other country's information can be added easily, using the standard approach of accessing existing databases that was developed in InteGRail.

The Network Statement Checker is demonstrated in one of the Demonstration Projects of the InteGRail project in Autumn 2008.

RailNetEurope has expressed an interest in further development of the tool and extension with other networks' information.

Other results of InteGRail

Architecture definition of integrated information systems: IGRIS

Semantic data structure of the railway domain, the InteGRail ontology

Example user applications: ODSS for on-line operational decision support, IAC for on-line infrastructure availability, IDT for on-line vehicle maintenance information

Description of interdependence of performance of railway processes: the railway KPI tree, and a tool to assess and visualise performance

InteGRail - Facts and Figures

InteGRail started on 1/1/2005 and ends on 31/12/2008

Total project budget:
20 million Euros

EC funding : 11 million Euros

Total effort over 125 person-years

39 partners from 11 countries

Partners of InteGRail:

UNIFE • Alstom Transport • AnsaldoBreda • Bombardier Transportation • Siemens Mobility • UIC • Trenitalia • D'Appolonia • TSB-FAV • DeltaRail • ATSF • CAF • Nortel Networks • Laboratori Guglielmo Marconi • FAR Systems • MER MEC • Italcertifer • ATOC • České dráhy • MAV • UNICONTROLS • Strukton Railinfra • Deuta-Werke • Heriot-Watt University • IMEC • OFFIS • Televic • Seebyte • Kontron • University of Chile • INRETS • Wireless Future • University of Birmingham • ADiF • RFF • ARGE Corridor X • Network Rail • ProRail • SNCF

More information:

For more information on the InteGRail project contact: helene.koepf@unife.org, or surf to www.integrail.info

For more information on the Network Statement Checker: pieter.dings@deltarail.nl

