



## Topics That Marked Eurasia Rail were Mega Trends and Innovation Collaborations

**On the 2nd day of Eurasia Rail, which opened its doors at Istanbul Expo Center on June 21, bringing the railway sector together for three days, the topics of "Hyperloop Project Connecting the Continents in Minutes" and "Collaborations in the Scope of Research and Innovation in Railways" were also discussed with valuable participants and speakers.**

At the sectoral session called **Cooperation within the Scope of Research & Innovation in Railways** moderated by **TÜBİTAK RUTE International Relations Coordinator and Project Manager Hamdi Uçarol, DITECFER Coordinator, ERCI ASBL Vice-President Veronica Elena Bocci** highlighted the importance of focusing on industry collaboration. "It's all about connecting customers, suppliers and supply chain opportunities," **Bocci** continued, "We all struggle to improve and innovate railway systems. We try to respond to mega trends with the power of cooperation. Ultimately, what we want to do is to help companies in Türkiye to be a little more proactive and to participate a little more in tenders and projects in Europe."

**University of Birmingham BCRRE International Collaboration, SME Participation and Innovation Coach Robert Hopkin** took the floor in the continuation of the same session and shared his views on innovation: "If you cut our veins today, you can see innovation flowing through our blood. I participated in the Eurasia Rail exhibition, which was held for the first time 10 years ago, it is very nice to come to Türkiye once again and be at this exhibition, first of all, I would like to emphasize this. We are very grateful for the kindness and hospitality shown by everyone. At the University of Birmingham we have 9,000 employees and 37,000 product lines. 200 researchers focus entirely on the railway sector. You need to know which players will be in international markets. 16 of our colleagues represent 70 different European countries. Our main issue at BRIC is to pave the way for international cooperation. As I said, innovation is something that is in our blood. We don't just solve problems in the UK. There are many problems we face in this industry. We need Innovation networks a lot, even just to solve the problems on the lines we use."

**RAILENIUM Director of Europe and Academic Partnership Florence Masbernat** said, "Railenium Technology Research Institute is trying to promote railway collaborations. Of course, we are primarily trying to develop in the French railway sector, but we are always open to cooperation with the European approach. We are trying to create a synergy between academia and industry, so we are of the opinion to work with clusters in this context. We conducted 17 collaborative projects and worked with more than 140 partners. We have a cluster that is trying to encourage competition. In particular, the role of this cluster is very important for us because it is a structure that tries to encourage innovation in the ecosystem and tries to be developed based on research and cooperation. These networks and clusters are very important in supporting innovation."

In the "**A Global Hyperloop Network: Connecting Continents in Minutes**" innovation session, **Zeleros Co-Founder and Vice President Corporate Affairs Juan Vicén Balaguer** shared his views on the emerging Hyperloop technology and said, "We have established a company, in Valencia Spain it is



located. We tried to establish partnerships by bringing together Aviation and Railways. Hyperloop is one such combination. Automated vehicles are taken to a low-pressure environment, move in a tube and reduce friction, increasing the vehicle's contact with the ground. In this way, you also eliminate the vibration. Therefore, higher speeds can be achieved from the aircraft. Since you go in a tube, you are also not affected by the weather conditions. You can establish connections between city centers. You have to go out of the city to get on the plane, but with this technology, transportation between the city centers can be provided easily. Compared to airlines, you can achieve 5 to 10 times energy efficiency. Thus, it also contributes to sustainability. We want to reduce emissions and aim to serve these purposes when designing new products.”

Mentioning the high network potential in Türkiye, **Balaguer** said, “Our first study in Türkiye is to assess the network impact and potential. We want to show the potential by working with different institutions. Firms in Türkiye have the ability to create this system.”

### **Eurasia Rail 10th Year Anniversary “Participant Loyalty Awards” Announced!**

Institutions that inspired the sector with their long-term participation in the 10-year adventure of Eurasia Rail Istanbul and their contributions over the years received their awards this year as well.

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International Railway, Light Rail Systems and Logistics Exhibition-Eurasia Rail with a full program of events continues with the event program on its last day.

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