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Welcome!



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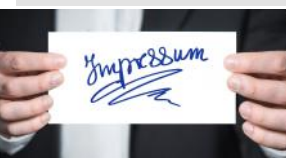
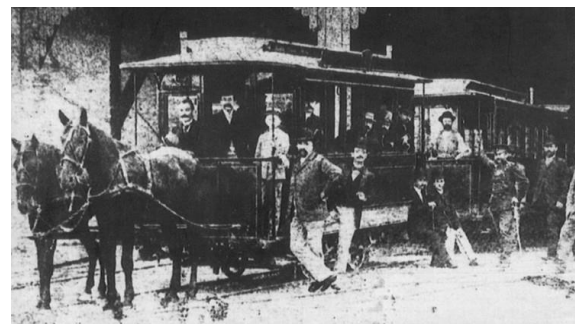
✓ B2B Meetings at PERES Event in Belgrade



✓ Presentation by Mrs. Vida Jerković at a gathering in the Railways of Serbia

s. 13 Time Machine

Why is the (US) standard Railroad Gauge 4 feet, 8,5 in ches (1435 mm) ?



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(Cover photo: InnoTrans)

Word from the editor and RCSEE director:



After nearly two years, Belgrade will again host the only fair in the region on SEE Mobility 2019 organized by the Railway Cluster for South East Europe. This will again be an opportunity for a greater number of people from our profession not only from the region but also from larger part of Europe, to gather in one place, exchange information and learn more about next major projects in the region and opportunities and chances for successful business in this part of Europe.

On the first day of the fair, the main events will be opening ceremony, followed by a conference on knowledge and technology transfer. The cream on the cake will be great joint cocktail for all participants and visitors who are at that moment in the Fair Hall at 5 p.m. and the opportunity for additional corporate networking.

Of course, the entire event wouldn't be possible without the significant sponsors and partners of this fair. I will remind that the general sponsor will be **Altpro** from Zagreb (Republic of Croatia). Golden sponsors are **Thales Austria**, **Siemens Mobility Cerovac d.o.o.** from Serbia, **Končar Electric Industry d.d.** from Croatia and **Lukitehnik** from Serbia. Silver sponsors of the fair are **Novatronik** from Novi Sad (Serbia) and **MIN DIV Svrlijig AD** from Serbia (member of **DIV Group** from Croatia).

The golden partner will be **Croatian Chamber of Economy (HGK)** and several companies.

Honorary partners of the Fair are **Serbian Railways** and **Transport Faculties of Transport and Traffic Engineering from Belgrade**. Finally, the media partner of our fair is the famous monthly magazine **Railway Gazette International (RGI)**.

I use this opportunity to personally thank all the above-mentioned sponsors and partners for their active participation in creating a tradition of this kind of meeting between national railways, private sector, government institutions and higher education institutions in our region.

Of course, several international cooperation agreements will be signed at the fair. Anyone who comes to the fair will have the opportunity to find out who is involved. With your arrival and presence at the fair you will also provide support to the organizer in the efforts to make this event as successful as possible.

Therefore, welcome to Mobility 2019!

Kindest regards,

Milan Vučković

RCSEE Director

Editor in chief **SEE RAIL Perspective**



Record operating profit "Railway of the Federation of B&H" in 2018

Febuary, Sarajevo, B&H: Operating profit before interest expense, income tax and depreciation (EBITDA) JP ŽFBiH d.o.o. Sarajevo in 2018 amounts to 19.027.649,00 KM, while in 2017 it amounted to 18.966.858,00 KM.

Operating income of the company in 2018 amounts to 115.638.989,00 KM and is higher than in 2017 by KM 2.236.752,00, when it amounted to 113.402.237,00 KM.

"The record result of operating profit that we achieved in the past year is primarily merit of employees and proof of the correct business policy of the company. We brought pride to the railway worker and at the same time responded to all the business tasks while keeping the trend of strong growth and development. Railways of the Federation of BiH are the backbone of development and so will remain in the future", said **Enis Džafić**, general manager of the JP Railway of the Federation of BiH ltd. Sarajevo.

Operating expenses in 2018 amounts to 96.611.340,00 KM and are higher by 2.175.961,00 KM compared to 2017 when they amounted to 94.435.379,00 KM.

"In 2018, we transported 9.120.000 tons of goods, which is 247.000 tons more than in 2017 when 8.873.000 tons of goods were transported, which resulted in an increase in revenues from the transport of goods for 6 million KM," Džafić said. In passenger traffic, the Railways of Federation of BiH transported 413.471 passengers in 2018, which is increase of 58,368 passengers compared to 2017. "If we compare the period of two years in 2018 (413.471) - 2016 (258.000), the number of transported passengers is higher by 155,471 passengers, which is an increase of 60 percents," said director Džafić.

The most significant investments realized in 2018 were:

- The electrification of the Una's railway Bihac-Bosanska otoka 47 km.
- Installation of optical cable (64 fibers) and three telephone exchanges, Sarajevo-Čapljina-state border.
- Procurement of two road-rail excavators with all connections.
- Procurement and installation of "Alica Han" (Ilijaš) road crossing.
- Procurement of automatic wash house for locomotives and wagons washing.



Source and Photo: Railways FBiH



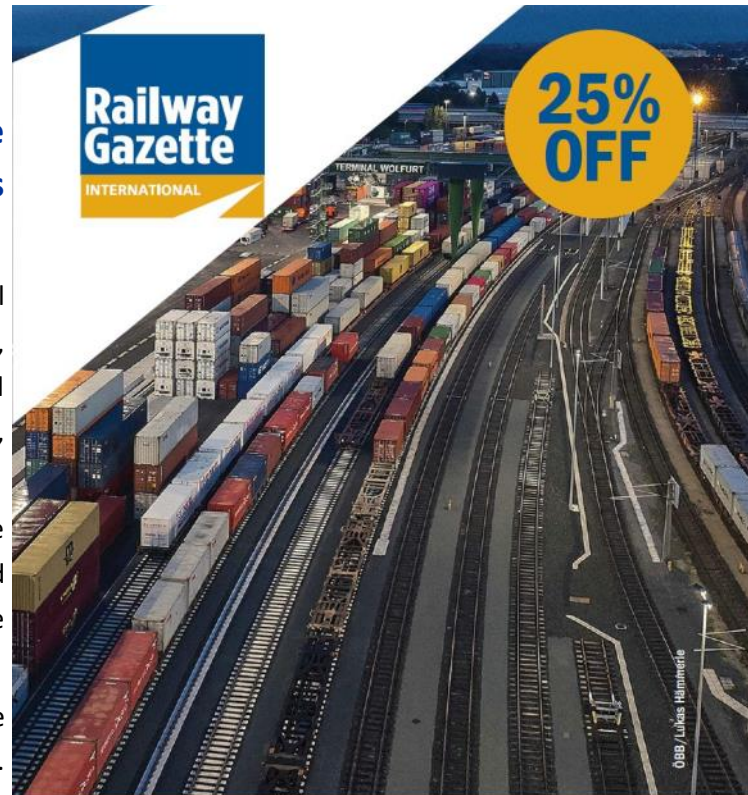
In Railways of the Republika Srpska, the software solution of the railway infrastructure records was presented

February, Sarajevo, B&H: The proposal of the conceptual software solution based on the geographic information platform, which provides the possibility of recording, managing and positioning on the map of the objects of the railway infrastructure, was presented at a presentation held in Doboj.

After the trial recording of facilities and infrastructure on the section of Banjaluka - Celinac railway line, was presented modularity of the solution with all its functions, as well as the possibility of separate implementation by modules.

-The method of data collection and processing, as well as the method of implementation of the subject software is presented. This system provides many opportunities that could find its application in the Railways of the Republika Srpska. In order to more effectively carry out daily tasks, it is possible to update the complete records of facilities and equipment of the infrastructure, to plan current and investment maintenance, reports on executed works, material consumption as well as other necessary information - said **Dragan Žigić**, director of the Electrical Engineering Department.

The conceptual software solution was made by the company "**Planet Soft**" from Banja Luka. It existfor five years working on development of software solutions as well as the implementation and integration of solutions from other manufacturers. In the Republika Srpska they have experience in implementing software solutions through cooperation realized with the Roads and Highways of Republika Srpska, **Putevi Brčko** as well as other companies in Serbia. *(Source & Pfoto: Railways RS)*



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The annual Assembly of the Croatian Pro Rail Alliance (PRA) was held in Zagreb

January, Zagreb: The Croatian Pro Rail Alliance (www.szz.hr) in early 2019 has 18 regular members and a dozen supporters. Changes in the membership of the Association, as well as changes in the composition of the management,



reflected on the somewhat reduced number of activities that the PRO carried out in 2018. Namely, last year's activities both physically and financially were in decline compared to the previous years, since PRA without employees from May to October 2018. In the PRA, whose president is **Zoran Maršić**, and the main coordinator is **Ante Klečina**, is currently employed administrator **Bojana Malašić**, and several volunteers - Faculty of Political Science students - are also involved in the work.

Members of the Assembly of the PRA, which took place on January 28, 2019 in **ALTPRO Company** premises, assessed that, despite the difficulties, the Association managed to maintain a satisfactory level of activity and maintain the visibility of the Association's work through three organized conferences, the web publication of articles on the web and FB and other accompanying activities. As stated in the report, the Association's work is divided into four areas: education projects, research and studies, promotion and communication within the organization, and activities are carried out through participation in European and national projects, economic activity and volunteer activities. Last year was worked on the idea and gathering partners for the preparation of two projects from the INTERREG program.

(Source: <http://szz.hr/>, Pfoto: Dragutin Staničić)

After successful fusion, the repair of the shunt locomotive was completed

February, Slavonski Brod: On February 22, 2019, a ceremonial handover of shunt locomotive between **OV-Wagon Maintenance Ltd** and **HŽ Cargo Ltd** was held in Slavonski Brod, in order to modernize the fleet of national carrier HŽ Cargo.

The shunt locomotive was repaired and it is the first one locomotive bearing a promotional Croatian design, recognizable red and white squares.

Goran Zec, Director of the OV - Wagon Maintenance Slavonski Brod and Chief Technical Officer, explained in his speech the process of fusion of companies within the rail sector of HŽ Cargo:

"At the beginning of the year, RPV and RŽV were merged with the company OV-Wagon Maintenance Ltd, and this merge model is aimed at achieving as large and significant synergy effects (market, operational and financial) as the result of the integration and the higher efficiency of operations. With such regulated system, the OV-Maintenance of the wagon continues with work, and after the repair, the first shunt locomotive 2132-304 is handed over. Service repair lasted for three months and this is the first of five locomotives that will repair and modernize HZCarga's fleet after reparation."

(Source and Photo: Monthly "Željezničar", Nr. 879)





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Suspension of railway traffic between Belgrade and Novi Sad from February 1

February, Belgrade: Due to infrastructure works on the Belgrade - Novi Sad - Subotica - Kelebia (state border) main railway from February 1, 2019, the railway traffic between Belgrade and Novi Sad will be suspended by the end of the timetable, it was announced at the railway company **Srbija voz**.

Railway traffic on the Zrenjanin - Novi Sad - Zrenjanin and Zrenjanin - Pančevo - Belgrade Center – Zrenjanin relations is also suspended until further notice.



Reconstruction of Nis - Zaječar railway line started: Works worth five billion dinars

February, Niš: There are 52 bridges with a total length of 1.8 km and 36 tunnels with a total length of 23.8 km, as well as 90 road crossings at the Niš-Zajecar railway line. This line is also characteristic of being one of the rare in Europe with radius of curves of 240-250 meters, about 60 of them. As part of the reconstruction, it will be necessary that a large part of these curves be pre-arranged in order to increase the curvaturesradius to at least 300 meters.

"This is part of the plan for reconstruction of over 750 kilometers of regional railways, which will be realized in the period 2018 to 2020. We have realized everything we planned for 2018 and these are railroads: Šabac-Brasina, Novi Sad-Orlovat-Pancevo and what is very important for all of us isreconstruction of the railway from Požarevac to Majdanpek. All flows of goods that previously went from the Prahovo and Bor areas to Sabac was taken over by reconstruction of this railway line, so that we can now also reconstruct this railway line", said Director of "Infrastructure of the Serbian Railways" **Miroljub Jevtić**. He pointed out that needs of the local economy, especially the **MIN DIV** concrete threshold factory in Svrlijig, as well

as all other users of railway transport will be taken into account.

Jevtic reminded that construction season for the **Infrastructure of the Serbian railways** began earlier, by reconstructing 4 tunnels between Kraljevo and Raska. Also, at the beginning of March, the reconstruction of the railway line from Lapovo to Kragujevac will begin, and then there will be opened new, fully automated road crossings in Mladenovac and in Djordjevo near Leskovac. Immediately after the completion of works on the Lapovo-Kragujevac railway, the reconstruction of the Markovac-Resavica and Subotica-Senta railways will follow.



Photo: "Serbian Railways



The development of Corridor X Plus is important for the Slovenian Railways

March, Ljubljana: To revive rail freight activities in the Balkans, which have been largely constrained by a series of wars and the associated instability in the area of the former Yugoslavia, efforts have been made recently to establish a new corridor which would connect the southern part of Germany with Turkey via Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, and Bulgaria and thus revive the transport flows in the region.



The plan has already been set in motion, with preliminary activities at the infrastructure companies currently ongoing, as well as a letter of intent signed by the majority of the states mentioned above. Once a political decision is finalised, an official proposal for the establishment of a new Rail Freight Corridor will be sent to the European Commission.

In this context, the Infrastructure Managers from Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, and Bulgaria have set up Koridor X PLUS, an association for the promotion and enhancement of this transport axis, which is regarded by the Ministry of Infrastructure as having a crucial role in the development of transport and logistics in the Republic of Slovenia.

Koridor X PLUS aims to make the rail transport routes in the region more attractive, competitive, and of better quality, as well as to ensure a stable operating framework of this important European rail axis all the way up to Asia and prepare sound arguments for the creation of the new Rail Freight Corridor. Moreover, the association strives to improve the cooperation between Infrastructure Managers and rail carriers along the corridor, optimise border procedures, upgrade existing market projects, and facilitate a mutual exchange of best practice and other important



Awarding the "Brand Leader Award 2019" to the Railway Infrastructure of Montenegro

Professional Collegium of 6th Business Conference TIL 2019 *"Transport and Logistics of South-East Europe and the Danube Region"* has decided to award the **"BRAND LEADER AWARD 2019"** to the **Railway Infrastructure of Montenegro AD Podgorica** - Leader in setting new standards in professionalism, reliability and operational excellence in the area of sustainable rail transport in the region of Southeast Europe.

At the 6th Business Conference "Transport and Logistics of South-East Europe and the Danube Region - TIL 2019", more than 400 participants will participate, decision makers from leading companies from key industries and all types of transport, including road, rail, air, water, intermodal transport, logistics, then senior representatives of state institutions and professional associations from Southeastern Europe, the EU, Turkey, Russia, China, as well as international experts, consultants, financial institutions, insurance companies and the media, and is held with the institutional support and sponsorship of the Ministry of Construction, transport and infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia.

The ceremony to be held on **March 27, 2019 in Belgrade** will be attended by the Delegation of the Railway Infrastructure of Montenegro, headed by the Chairman of the Board, Director **Prof. Dr. Safet Kalac**, who was invited to receive the award on behalf of the Society.

PERES Project Presented to the Railway Companies

January, Belgrade: Partners involved in the PERES project gathered in Belgrade to present the current progress of the project and future plans to the interested member companies of the five Clusters.



Five partner clusters – **DITECFER** from Italy, **BTS** from Lower Saxony, **I-Trans** from France, **RAIL ALLIANCE** from United Kingdom and the organizer, **RCSEE** which covers the six countries of Western Balkans, gathered its member companies at the premises of the host, **Serbian Railways**, for the presentation of current state of affairs of the PERES project and the upcoming organized pilot mission to the United States.

Event participants were welcomed by the representative of the **Serbian Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure**, Ms **Vida Jerkovic**, Head of Department for Railways and Intermodal Transport, who gave them an overview of numerous projects on maintenance and renovation of the railway infrastructure in the Republic of Serbia, as well as the projects which are planned in the future period.

Executive **Director of the Serbian Railways**, Mr **Rajko Ković**, who expressed his satisfaction with the event, and stated that Serbian Railways will require modern and efficient infrastructure in the upcoming years and decades, and that it can only be done through close cooperation with railways and its suppliers.

Event moved on to the results of the analysis performed by the PERES team – plans and capacity of the cluster member companies, along with the support they might need in order to achieve their internationalization plans.

Finally, **PERES team** presented the plans for the upcoming pilot mission to United States and visit to the railway companies and stakeholders in Chicago, Cleveland, Erie and Pittsburg area, to be held in the period of March 30th-April 6th.



(Photos: RCSEE)

B2B Meetings at PERES Event in Belgrade

On January 30, 2019: As a part of the PERES project presentation event in Belgrade, a B2B meeting session was held for over 30 attendee companies.

Large number of event participants had a chance to meet with each other as well as the Cluster organizations partnered on the project. As the event host were Serbian Railways, participants also had an opportunity to meet the representatives of three national railway companies – **Serbian Railways Infrastructure**, **Srbija Voz**, national passenger transport operator, and **Srbija Kargo**, national freight transport operator.



(Photos: RCSEE)



Presentation by Mrs. Vida Jerković at a gathering in the Railways of Serbia



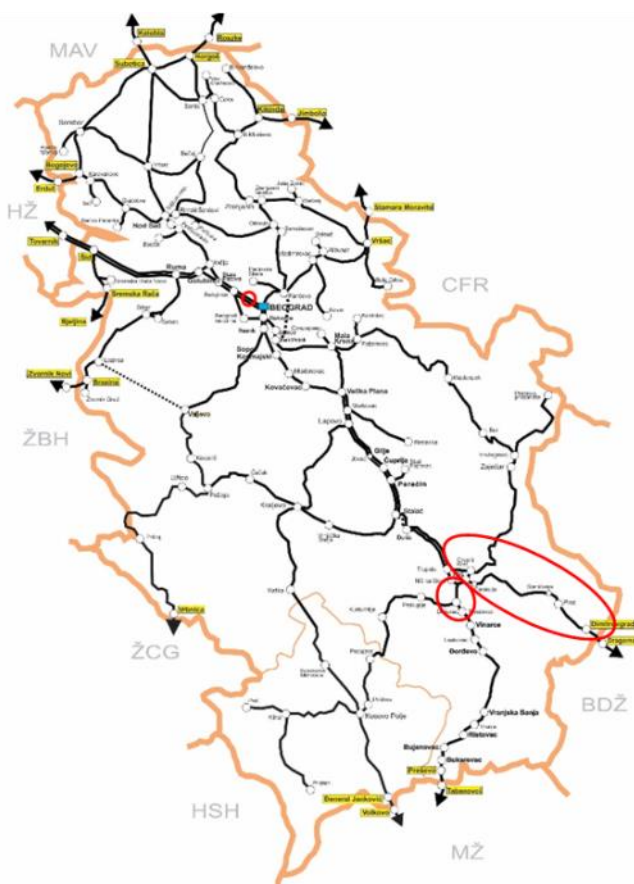
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Railway projects in preparation in the Republic of Serbia:

- Reconstruction and modernization of railway line Niš-Dimitrovgrad, 108 km, financed by WBIF grant, EIB loan and RS budget, € 268,2 mil.
- Construction Intermodal terminal in Batajnica, IPA and RS budget, € 15,54 miliona.
- Reconstruction and modernization of section Niš-Brestovac (railway line Niš-Preševo), 23 km, financed by IPA 2015 and RS budget, € 62,7 mil .
- Innovation of complex railway Technical passenger station Zemun - TPS Zemun, € 47 mil .
- Overhaul 327,5 km of regional railway lines, RS budget and budget of Infrastructure Manager, € 30,7 mil .

It is planned:

- Renewal of Electrical Infrastructure, EBRD, € 3,5 mil.
- Procurement of track recording cars , EBRD, € 2,2 mil.
- Procurement of heavy motorized railcars , EBRD, € 4,5 mil.
- Procurement of Software for making timetable, EBRD.
- Repair and modernization of 5 multipurpose electric motor sets, EBRD, € 3,5 mil.
- Procurement of new multisystem electric locomotives, EBRD, € 64 mil.



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WHY IS THE (US) STANDARD RAILROAD GAUGE 4 FEET, 8.5 INCHES (1.435 mm) ?

The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) as in most countries is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and English expatriates built the US Railroads. Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used. Why did "they" use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing. Okay! Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts. So who built those old rutted roads? Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (and England) for their legions. The roads have been used ever since. And the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for! an Imperial Roman war chariot. And bureaucracies live forever. So the next time you are handed a spec and told we have always done it that way and wonder what horse's ass came up with that, you may be exactly right, because the Imperial Roman war chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two war horses. Now the twist to the story... When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site.

The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains. The SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, a major Space Shuttle design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's ass. And you thought being a horse's ass wasn't important. (From *aviationhumor.net*)



Belgrade, tram line from 1892. Photo: Archive GSP Belgrade

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Sponsors of the SEE Mobility 2019 fair in Belgrade:

Organizer of the fair, Railway Cluster for Southeastern Europe (RCSEE), announced that official sponsors and partners of the fair, that will be held in Belgrade hotel Metropol, are the following companies and organizations:

General sponsor is **Altpro Zagreb** from the Republic of Croatia.

The golden partner will be **Croatian Chamber of Economy (HGK)**

Golden Sponsors are: **Thales Austria**, **Siemens Mobility d.o.o. Cerovac** from Serbia, **Končar-Elektroindustrija d.d.** from the Republic of Croatia and **Lukintehnik** from Serbia.

Silver Sponsors are: **Novatronic** from Serbia and **MIN DIV Svrljig AD** from Serbia.

Honorary Partners of the fair are: **Serbian Railways** and **Belgrade University Faculty of Transport**.

The honor of being media partner to the event was granted to the renowned international expert magazine **Railway Gazette International (RGI)**.

Fair applications, according to the organizers, are proceeding well, considering there is international interest in exhibiting and visiting the fair, not only from the region, but throughout Europe.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBER OF RCSEE:



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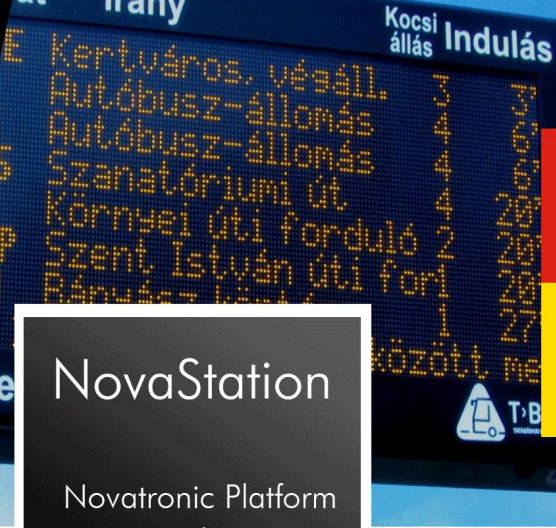
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SEE RAIL Perspective

