

**PRIME-RUD Meeting
19 November 2020**

Information point: Rail Facilities Portal (RFP)

From: RNE

– For Information –

The RFP (<https://railfacilitiesportal.eu/>) was designed to provide a platform for service facility operators – such as freight terminals, marshalling yards, etc. - to publish information about their facilities complying with the relevant EU regulations and to promote their facilities and services. At the same time, for shippers, rail undertakings, combined-transport operators and other logistics service providers using rail it is meant to be a single source of information allowing them to identify relevant facilities for the planning of their services and the optimization of their transport and logistics chains.

1. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

In June 2020, RailNetEurope (RNE) took over the ownership of the RFP from the European Commission.

We are glad to inform you about the significant increase of the usage of the RFP during the last few months. The number of participating service facilities is now over 8.000 including both IM and non-IM service facilities.

The operation / portal management of the RFP is now carried out jointly by RNE and the International Union for Road-Rail Combined Transport (UIRR), which is the industry association for the combined transport sector in Europe. The aim of this cooperation is to involve not only service facilities operated by the members of RNE, but also all the other service facilities in Europe. Both associations are committed to develop the RFP jointly further by actively participating in its governance, administration, technical, functional and data quality management.

On 1 October 2020, the first meeting of the permanent Governance Board took place, co-chaired by RNE and UIRR, with the participation of organizations representing various stakeholders of the sector (ALLRAIL, CEFIC, CER, COVESTRO, EIM, ERA, ERFA, ESPO, FEPORT, IRG-Rail, Terminal Italia, UIC, UNIFE, UIPRAIL and WienCont). This structure allows for balanced decision-making on the future strategy and developments of the Portal with the major goal to achieve making the RFP a common European business tool for information on rail service facilities. The European Commission also participates to follow up on the developments and to act as a mediator among the members in case of need.

Furthermore, a Technical Control Board, established earlier this year, has also been working actively. Its main mandate is to analyze change proposals submitted by the members and to prepare functional specifications for their development. It is also co-chaired by RNE and UIRR and comprises the following members: as for infrastructure managers: ADIF, Banenor, DB Netz,

Infrabel, IP, Network Rail, SŽCZ, SŽ Infra, and ŽSR; as for other organisations, CER, ERA, EIM, Terminal Italia and UIC also participate.

2. NEXT STEPS

The Technical Control Board is currently working on functional specifications for change requests related to data quality, data interface and user interface. By the end of November 2020, they are subject to approval by the Governance Board for implementation.

The developments will be co-financed by the European Commission via the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), for which an EU grant agreement will be signed which is under preparation. For the operation, hosting and maintenance of the RFP, another EU grant agreement will be signed.

3. EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION BY INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGERS

The above-mentioned grant agreement for operation sets clear objectives and KPIs to be achieved until the end of the funding period, which is the end of 2022.

The European Commission will focus mainly on the following:

- Close to full coverage of SFs on the RFCs with descriptions containing all information necessary to plan train routes;
- Extensive coverage of service facilities outside the RFCs with focus on the number of freight facilities, with descriptions containing at least basic information (location and contact details) and gradual increase in the level of detail of the information;
- High number of SF descriptions with extended information (containing information on available services, equipment, etc.);
- A minimum number of descriptions of passenger stations.

To this end, Infrastructure Managers are invited to use the RFP by uploading descriptions of their service facilities.

In case of need of support in using the RFP, you may get contact Michael Spannlang, RNE Rail Facilities Portal Manager via michael.spannlang@rne.eu.