



GlobalRail

Transport Infrastructure Exhibition & Conference

30 September - 2 October 2025 | ADNEC Centre Abu Dhabi

HOSTED BY



قطارات الاتحاد
Etihad Rail

CONFERENCE BROCHURE

DRIVING THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORT AND GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY

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Chairman's message



Etihad Rail is cultivating a thriving transportation ecosystem for our region and the rest of the world that is rooted in collaboration, prosperity, and opportunity. Through the consistent support of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of the Presidential Court, and the UAE's wise leadership, we aim to further solidify the position of our national project at an international level.

This support is further underscored by the establishment of Global Rail, which provides Etihad Rail with a platform that will enrich the regional transport and logistics sector, ensuring its growing demands are met, and thus further driving its development.

H.H. Sheikh Theyab bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Chairman
Etihad Rail

The Transport Sector at a Glance

With the demand for moving passengers and goods growing at an unprecedented rate, the emergence of a new global paradigm, characterised by green transitions, shorter innovation cycles, the growth of e-commerce, and rapid rise of emerging economies, has propelled rail's clear advantages over other transport modes, into the spotlight.

Acting as a backbone for the integration of air, sea, road and shared mobility systems, rail networks have the potential to revolutionise global transport networks, paving the way for the interconnected transport ecosystems of the future.

Global Rail 2025 will unite transport and network operators, port authorities, financiers, freight and logistics providers, technologists and solution providers, to accelerate the transition towards smart, integrated, and sustainable transport ecosystems.

CAGR of 8%

Global Transportation
Market 2024–2032

\$16 Trillion

2032 Forecasted Global
Transportation Market Size

CAGR of 6%

Expected Growth Rate of the
GCC Freight and Logistics
Market 2024–2032

40,000+ KM

Length of Planned Rail
Network in GCC Under
Development

9.5 bn

Global Passenger
Traffic in 2025

About the Host

At the center of the UAE’s mobility and logistics future



As the developer and operator of the UAE’s national rail network, Etihad Rail redefines the movement of goods and people across the UAE and wider GCC, cementing its role as the developer of the nation’s most transformative transport infrastructure project. As part of the expansive GCC Rail Network, Etihad Rail unlocks unprecedented efficiencies in logistics, trade, and mobility—connecting industrial zones, ports, and cities with a seamless, high-capacity transport system.

With a planned 1,200-kilometer network spanning all seven emirates, Etihad Rail strengthens supply chain resilience, positioning the UAE as a global logistics powerhouse. It’s ambitious expansion into passenger services—including the much anticipated, high-speed Abu Dhabi-Dubai link - stands to set a new global benchmark for intercity travel, while cross-border connections reinforce the UAE’s status as an international gateway.

Beyond connectivity, Etihad Rail drives sustainability, cuts carbon emissions and accelerates the transition to cleaner, smarter transport solutions. As the cornerstone of the UAE’s future transportation ecosystem, it stands as the foundation for economic growth, trade expansion, and sustainable mobility.

Key Facts:

Passenger Services

High-speed network planned, including Abu Dhabi-Dubai route (30-minute travel time) up to 350km/h

Operational Network

900 km in service for freight transport

Freight Capacity

Designed to handle up to 60 million tonnes annually by 2030

Why Abu Dhabi?

Abu Dhabi is a global trade and logistics hub, leveraging its strategic location and world-class infrastructure to connect approximately 4.5 billion people within a four-hour flight radius. As the UAE diversifies its economy, its logistics market is projected to reach USD 58.5 billion by 2032, driven by e-commerce growth and progressive government policies. A key enabler of this expansion is the GCC rail network, a transformative initiative enhancing economic integration and sustainable transportation by linking logistics hubs to major international trade routes.

At the heart of this transformation, Etihad Rail is revolutionising mobility with a 1,200 km network connecting all seven emirates and extending into the GCC. Designed for freight and high-speed passenger services, the network aligns with the UAE’s vision for smart, intermodal mobility, integrating rail, road, air, and sea transport. By 2030, the UAE aims to be a global leader in e-mobility and sustainable logistics, reinforcing its position as a key gateway for international commerce.

About the Event

Network with rail, logistics and mobility leaders pioneering connectivity, sustainability and resilience for transport’s connected future.

Global Rail 2025 is the must-attend event for the future of transport where policy makers, transport operators, logistics leaders and tech pioneers converge to drive resilience, connectivity and sustainability in future transport systems.

As cities grow and supply chains adapt to a shifting global landscape, rail stands at the intersection of smart mobility, seamless connectivity, and sustainable trade. It is the backbone of an integrated transport future—linking high-speed networks, urban transit, and freight corridors to drive resilience, efficiency, and decarbonization. Global Rail 2025 is where visionaries across policy, logistics, and technology unite to redefine transport—unlocking the full potential of rail to power connected mobility and commerce, on a global scale.

Global Rail in Numbers

20,000+

Industry Attendees

200+

Exhibiting Companies

200+

Visionary Speakers

800+

Conference Delegates

100+

Participating Countries

30+

MoUs signed in 2024

15+

Ministerial Delegations

14+

Exhibition Sectors

6

Expansive Halls

Exhibition Sectors

Air, ports, rail operators	Freight and logistics
Rolling stock	AI, technology and digitization
Infrastructure and construction	Urban and multimodal integration
Security and safety	Smart mobility
Signaling and control	Traffic management
Predictive maintenance	Sustainability
Consulting and engineering	Passenger experience

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GlobalRail ALL ACCESS DELEGATE PASS 3 days access to: • Strategic Conference • Technical Conference • Networking lunch and delegate coffee breaks • Global Exhibition and focus sectors • Specialised Exhibition Areas and Country Pavilions DELEGATE RATE: \$799	GlobalRail TECHNICAL DELEGATE PASS 3 days access to: • Technical Conference • Networking lunch and delegate coffee breaks DELEGATE RATE: \$399
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About the Strategic Conference

The Global Rail and Transport Infrastructure Strategic Conference will gather over 120+ thought leaders and industry experts from across the rail, transport, logistics, and mobility value chain to discuss the latest project updates, innovations, and technology to drive connectivity, resilience and sustainability across transport modes and networks.

Through a series of panel discussions, fireside chats and exclusive project insights, the Strategic Conference will act as a global platform for driving transformation and progress in the global transportation sector. Policymakers, c-suite and senior decision makers pioneering policies, innovation and project implementation, will convene to discuss critical challenges and opportunities to drive progress towards sustainable, interconnected and resilient transport networks of tomorrow.

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Spain is at the forefront of rail innovation, and we want to be where the opportunities are—and that undoubtedly means here, in the United Arab Emirates. I applaud this country's bold commitment to rail and high-speed development.

H.E. Óscar Puente
Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility
Spain



GlobalRail

قطارات الاتحاد
Etihad Rail

Global Rail Strategic Conference Pillars

PILLAR 1

Navigating the mega-trends shaping the future of global transport ecosystems

PILLAR 2

Building future-proof transportation networks for a connected tomorrow

PILLAR 3

Driving inclusive and sustainable transportation through collaboration, strategic partnerships, and innovation

Strategic Conference Themes



High-Speed Rail
project delivery



Trade and corridor
development



Intermodal
operations



Shared
mobility



Micromobility



End-to-end
sustainable
transport



First-last mile



Policy and
governance



Sustainable
financing and
investment



Urban planning &
transit-oriented
development



Interoperabili-
ty and network
harmonisation



Safety and
security



AI and
Automation



Multi-modal
and intermodal
integration



Metro and
light rail



Freight
logistics



Mobility-as a
service (MaaS)



Smart mobility
solutions

Global Rail Executive Committee

 Ahmed Al Musawa Al Hashemi Chief Executive Officer Hafeet Rail	 John Newman President & Chief Executive Officer Progress Rail, a Caterpillar Company	 Farid Belbouab Group Chief Executive Officer Gulftainer	 Daniel Wright Chief Operating Officer Gulftainer
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 Ekaterina Sheremet Associate Partner McKinsey & Company			

Global Rail Strategic Conference Speakers

 H.E. Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei Minister of Energy and Infrastructure UAE	 H.E. Omar Sultan Al Olama Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications UAE	 H.E. Dr. Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi Minister of Foreign Trade UAE	 H.E. Saleh bin Nasser Al-Jasser Minister of Transport and Logistics Services Saudi Arabia
 H.E. Lieutenant General Engineer Kamel Al Wazir Deputy Prime Minister for Industrial Affairs and Egyptian Minister of Industry and Transport The Arab Republic of Egypt	 H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications Bahrain	 H.E. Nidal Al Qatamin Minister of Transport Jordan	 H.E. Razzaq Muhaibas Al – Saadawi Minister of Transport Iraq
 H.E. Hon. Fred Byamukama State Minister for Transport Uganda	 H.E. Davit Khudatyan Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Republic of Armenia	 H.E. Davis Chirchir Cabinet Secretary, Ministry for Roads and Transport Republic of Kenya	 H.E. Bilal Azhar Kayani Minister of State for Railways Finance and Head of PMDU Pakistan
 H.E. Jasurbek Choriev Deputy Minister of Transport Republic of Uzbekistan	 H.E. Mohammed Ali Al Shorafa Chairman Abu Dhabi Department of Municipalities and Transport	 H.E. Shadi Malak Chief Executive Officer Etihad Rail	 H.E. Eng. Maysarah Mahmoud Salim Eid Director General Abu Dhabi Projects and Infrastructure Centre (ADPIC)
 Dr. Bashar Al-Malik Chief Executive Officer Saudi Arabia Railways	 H.E. Hussein Ali Safadi Chief Executive Officer Aqaba Development Corporation (ADC)	 Abdulla Bin Damithan CEO and Managing Director DP World GCC	 Abdulrahman Salim Al Hatmi Group Chief Executive Officer ASYAD



Ahmed AlMusawa AlHashemi
Chief Executive Officer
Hafeet Rail



Saeed Salem AlSuwaidi
Chief Executive Officer
Abu Dhabi Transport
Company (ADT)



Dr. Abdulla Hamad Al Ghfeli
Acting Director General
Integrated Transport Center –
Abu Dhabi



Giuseppe Marino
Group Chief Executive Officer
Hitachi Rail



Henri Poupart-Lafarge
Chief Executive Officer
Alstom



Marie-Ange Debon
Chairwoman and
Group Chief Executive Officer
Keolis



Michael Peter
Chief Executive Officer
Siemens Mobility



Javier Martinez Ojinaga
Chief Executive Officer
CAF



Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Alebri
Chief Executive Officer
ADNOC Sour Gas



Mohd Zarif Hashim
Chief Executive Officer
Malaysia Rapid Transit
Corporation (MRT Corp)



Laurence Broseta
Chief Executive Officer
International
Keolis



Diego Diaz
International Director
and President
SNCF International



Valeriano Salciccia
Chief Executive Officer
Salcef Group S.p.A



Michael Ted Macapagal
Chairman
Philippine National
Railways



Rahul Mithal
Chairman and
Managing Director
RITES



Jeffrey Sim Vee Ming
Group Chief executive Officer
Non-Independent
Executive Director
SBS Transit



**H.E. Rakhmetov Khikmatulla
Narzullayevich**
First Deputy Chairman
of the Board
JSC 'Uzbekistan Railways'



Vytis Žalimas
Chief Executive Officer
LTG Infra



Sergio Vazquez Torron
President and
Chief Executive Officer
Ineco



Jean-Charles Vollery
Chief Executive Officer
SYSTRA



Cuthbert Malindi
Managing Director
Zambia Railways Limited



Shahab Al Jassmi
Senior Vice President Ports &
Terminals Commercial
DP World GCC



Guenter Neureiter
Chief Executive Officer
Voestalpine Railway Systems



Niko Warbanoff
Chief Executive Officer
DB E.C.O Group



Farid Belbouab
Group Chief Executive Officer
GulfTainer



Régis Dumay
Chief Executive Officer
Transportation
Egis



Antonia Höög
Chief Sustainability Officer
Keolis



Dr. Jacob Kam
Chief Executive Officer
MTR Corporation Limited



Shri Praveen Kumar
Managing Director
Dedicated Freight Corridor
Corporation of India Limited
(DFCCIL)



Inmaculada Gutiérrez
Chief Executive Officer
International Projects
Renfe



Chris Snyder
EMEA CEO and Global
Co-Chief Operating Officer
Via



Jan Christoph Harder
President of Region West,
North and Rest of World (RoW)
Škoda Group



Azza AlSuwaidi
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Etihad Rail Mobility



Murathan Kalyoncu
Chairman of the Board
Kalyon Insaat



Rashid Al Mulla
Managing Director
International Project
Etihad Rail, Jordan



Leon Soulier
Chief Executive Officer
Business Unit – Turnkey
Siemens Mobility



Zahi Khalil
Director General and
Deputy Chairman
Jordan Hijaz Railway



Dr. Ozgur Soy
Executive Chair
Metro Istanbul



Martin Vaujour
President, Africa, Middle East
& Central Asia
Alstom



Anouar Benazzouz
Chief Strategy and
Commercial Officer
Etihad Rail



Hamed Zaghw
Chief Executive Officer
Middle East
AECOM



Samer Kaissi
Chief Executive Officer, Gulf
Cluster & Country Manager,
UAE
DHL Global Forwarding



Tewfik Bouarif
Director of the Passenger
Division
ONCF



Amadou Diallo
Chief Executive Officer
DHL Global Forwarding
Middle East and Africa



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Chief Executive Officer
**Keolis UK, Middle East,
and India**



Martin Yates
Senior Government Advisor
Presight



Tolga Akkas
Chief Executive Officer
Doğuş Construction



Tran Thien Canh
Director General
Vietnam Railway Authority,
Ministry of Construction of
Vietnam



Axel Herzhauser
Chief Executive Officer
WeFreight



Omar AlSebeyi
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Etihad Rail Freight



Sammy Akif
Vice President –
Advanced Rail Technology
Progress Rail



Sebastien Mangeant
Chief Operating Officer
Abu Dhabi Transport
Company (ADT)



Eng. Sami Ali Al Jallaf
Executive Director – Public
Transport and Licensing
Corporation
Ajman Transport Authority



Dr. Abdeljabbar Ben Salem
Senior Vice President Middle
East North Africa and
Central Asia
RATPDev



Mohammad Khadra
Regional Director, Middle
East & Africa
Talgo



Hasan Al Hosani
Chief Executive Officer
Smart Solutions, Space42



Olivier Laurent
Chief Executive Officer
RailDirect



Armando Fombella
General Manager and
Project Director
Renfe KSA



Faisal Ameer Malik
Chief Technical Officer
Huawei Enterprise Business,
Middle East & Central Asia



Michel Abi Saab
General Manager
Emerge



Adriano Giroto
President
IronLev



Dr. Nasser Al Bustami
Board Director and
Chief Executive Officer
**Stevin Rock, RAK Rock and
Raknor**



Tom Spearing
Senior Vice President, Rail and
Transit Global Sector Leader
Hill International



Jafar Oklah
Chief Executive Officer
National Infrastructure
Construction Company (NICC)



Noémie Bercoff
Director General
Urbanloop



Aasim Siddiqui
Chief Executive Officer
Pakistan Intermodal



Gaurav Biswas
Founder and CEO
TruKker



Ibrahim (Ibro) Muftic
Vice President – Rail and
Transit Leader
Parsons



Amer Battikhi
Executive Vice President
and General Manager –
Digital and Data Solutions
Jacobs



Mohamed Jaber
Chief Executive Officer
Combi Lift Projects MEA



Omran Malek
Head of Smart Autonomous
Vehicle Industry (SAVI) Cluster
Abu Dhabi Investment Office
(ADIO)



Russell Jackson
EVP Global Transit
AECOM



Eng Ahmed Al Shibani
Integrated Transport
Division Director
Abu Dhabi Integrated
Transport Center



Martin Ausserdorfer
Member of the Board,
Brenner Base Tunnel,
Chief Executive Officer
Railtraction Company, (Italy)



Frank Beckers
Senior Financial Advisor
Etihad Rail



TC Chew
Managing Director, APAC
Arup



Steffen Behrens
Chief Commercial Officer
(CCO)
deugro



Paul Button
Acting Chief Operations Officer
Trojan General Contracting



Jonathan McDonald
Global Director Rail Systems
and Assurance
Hatch Ltd



Nasser AlQahtani
Interoperability Director
GCC Railways Authority



Ayman Ashour
Chief Executive Officer, Siemens
Mobility Turnkey MEA and Siemens
Mobility UAE
Siemens Mobility



Darren McBride
EMEA PMC
& Rail Practice Lead
Parsons



Prisca Flattot
Senior Vice President Technical
and Operational Performance
SYSTRA



Nabil Cheqroun
Vice President & General Manager
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Middle East, Türkiye and Africa



Pablo Ruiz del Real
CEO
Alhambra Infrastructure
Advisors



Bertrand MINARY
Passenger Director
UIC [International Union of
Railways]



Roger Cruickshank
Middle East Transportation
Market Lead & AtkinsRéalis Fellow
AtkinsRéalis



Lorenzo Modena
CEO and Founder
OpenMove



John Fagan
UKIMEA Transport Market
Leader
Arup



Hashem AlHendawi
Head of MENA
UITP - International
Association of Public
Transport



Simon Argyle
Deputy Director of International
Relations, EU & Multilateral
The Department for Transport
(DfT)



Alex Haag
Co-Founder and CEO
Futurail



Simon Bunckenburg
Head of Infrastructure and
Construction
UK Export Finance (UKEF)



Jens-Oliver Schuenzel
Director / Team Head Land-
based Transportation
KfW IPEX-Bank GmbH



Dr. Muhammad Mustafa
Director of Mobility and
Planning
Egis, Middle East and
South Asia



Rafael Tello
Global Sustainability President,
Middle East President
Ambipar



Almud Weitz
Regional Practice Director for
Infrastructure, Middle East and
North Africa
World Bank



Natalia Sanz
Senior Investment Officer
Asian Infrastructure
Investment Bank (AIIB)



Naresh Ranganathan
Vice President - EAS Cargo
Velora



Harj Dhaliwal
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Nevomo



Denis Tudor
Chief Executive Officer
& Co-founder
Swisspod



Andrea Giuricin
Chief Executive Officer
TRA Consulting



Debabrata Chakraborty
Sr. Regional Director, MEA
Bentley Systems



Krzysztof Ruciński
Mobility Expert
Polish Investment and
Trade Agency (PAIH)



Hadi Sanei
Global Director - Transit
Systems
Hatch



Cesar Valero
Partner
ALG



Katie Ferrier
Regional Director UKI & MEA
Achilles Information Ltd



Paul Ling
Business Manager
UK Export Finance



Sunil Prasad
Global Head - Aerospace
& Rail
L&T Technology Services



Nicola Sandri
Senior Partner, Global Leader
of Transport Infrastructure
McKinsey & Company, Milan



Helmut Scholze
Senior Partner, MEA Mobility
and Infrastructure Lead,
Dubai
Kearney



Dominik Baumeister
Senior Partner, Global Head
Transport & Logistics
PwC



André Martins
Partner and Head of
Transportation and Services,
IMEA
Oliver Wyman



Dr. Christian Gasparic
Partner and Global Lead
Kearney Advanced Mobility
Institute



Alessandro Tricamo
Partner, Transportation
and Services
Oliver Wyman



Lorenzo Trittoni
Partner, Transportation
and Services
Oliver Wyman



Manus Cranny
Geo-Economics Editor
The National



Lubna Bouza
Head of Business News & News
Presenter
Sky News Arabia



Salim Essaid
Business Editor
The National



Amandeep Bhangu
Presenter and Moderator
Voice Media London

Strategic Conference Agenda

DAY 1 – TUESDAY – 30 SEPTEMBER

NAVIGATING THE MEGA-TRENDS SHAPING THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL TRANSPORT ECOSYSTEMS

10:00 – 11:00

OPENING CEREMONY

10:00 – 10:05

MC welcome



Mina Al'Oraibi
Editor-in-Chief
The National

10:05 – 10:10

OPENING KEYNOTE



H.E. Mohammed Ali Al Shorafa
Chairman
Abu Dhabi Department of
Municipalities and Transport
(DMT)

10:10 – 10:15

KEYNOTE



H.E. Shadi Malak
Chief Executive Officer
Etihad Rail



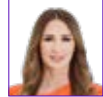
10:15 – 11:00

MINISTERIAL PANEL DISCUSSION: Seamless borders: Transport as a catalyst for regional integration

Transport connectivity is central to unlocking the region’s economic potential. As cross-border infrastructure projects gain momentum, this session will explore how strategic investment in transport networks is driving regional integration, boosting trade flows, and fostering long-term economic cooperation. Speakers will examine current priorities across the Gulf and wider Middle East, including harmonising regulations, aligning infrastructure plans, and integrating ports and logistics hubs to create seamless, multimodal corridors. The discussion will also address how transport can serve as a foundation for broader economic partnerships and shared growth across borders.

Attendee insights: Understand how cross-border transport initiatives are shaping a more integrated regional economy, with real-world updates on key infrastructure projects linking the GCC and beyond.

MODERATOR



Lubna Bouza
Head of Business News &
News Presenter
Sky News Arabia



H.E. Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei
Minister of Energy and
Infrastructure
UAE



H.E. Lieutenant General Engineer Kamel Al Wazir
Deputy Prime Minister for
Industrial Affairs and Egyptian
Minister of Industry and Transport
The Arab Republic of Egypt



H.E. Saleh bin Nasser Al Jasser
Minister of Transport and
Logistics Services
Saudi Arabia



H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa
Minister of Transport &
Telecommunications
Bahrain



H.E. H.E. Nidal Al Qatamin
Minister of Transport
Jordan



H.E. Razzaq Muhaibas Al - Saadawi
Minister of Transport
Iraq

11:40 – 11:45

STRATEGIC CONFERENCE WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS



Amandeep Bhangu
Presenter & Moderator
Voice Media London

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*The Global Rail 2025 Strategic Conference programme is subject to change. All speaker participation is subject to final confirmation. The organisers reserve the right to make amendments to the programme as necessary in collaboration with Etihad Rail, host of Global Rail 2025.

11:45 – 12:30

OPENING PANEL: Transport's great dilemma: can we grow while going green?

Meeting the rising demand for transport while cutting emissions requires a fundamental shift in how infrastructure is planned, financed, and operated. How can policy frameworks align economic expansion with climate goals, ensuring that regulation and incentives drive sustainable investment? What role will digitalization and advanced technologies – such as AI-driven logistics – play in enabling emissions reductions at scale? At the same time, shifting trade routes and evolving global supply chains are reshaping transport networks. How can transport systems adapt to these changes while maintaining resilience, cost-effectiveness, and environmental responsibility? Success depends on an integrated approach – where policy, technology, and investment work in tandem to create transport systems that are both future-ready and climate-aligned.

Attendee insights: This session will examine how policy, technology, and investment can align to expand transport and logistics capacity while driving meaningful progress on sustainability.

MODERATOR



Nicola Sandri
Senior Partner, Global Leader
of Transport Infrastructure
McKinsey & Company, Milan



Marie-Ange Debon
Chairwoman and Group
Chief Executive Officer
Keolis



Javier Martinez Ojinaga
Chief Executive Officer
CAF



Michael Ted Macapagal
Chairman
Philippine National
Railways



Ahmed Al Musawa Al Hashemi
Chief Executive Officer
Hafet Rail



Rahul Mithal
Chairman and
Managing Director
RITES



H.E. Rakhmetov Khikmatulla Narzullayevich
First Deputy Chairman
of the Board
JSC 'Uzbekistan Railways'

12:30 – 12:40

KEYNOTE: The role of transportation in promoting global trade



H.E. Dr. Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi
Minister of Foreign Trade
UAE



Rail is essential to achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, accounting for just 0.4% of transport-related greenhouse gas emissions. The UAE, through Etihad Rail, is making significant strides in expanding rail as a primary transport system. As a global leader with over 80 years of experience and more than 30 in high-speed operations, Renfe is proud to participate in Global Rail—an event set to become a key platform for the industry.

Raul Blanco Diaz
Former President
Renfe



12:40 – 13:25

GCC RAIL PANEL DISCUSSION: Powering Gulf railway connectivity: regional integration and economic acceleration

This session will provide a timely update on the progress of the GCC railway and examine how it will serve as a cornerstone for deeper economic integration and long-term trade diversification. From enabling cross-border freight movement to linking industrial and logistics hubs, the railway is set to redefine how Gulf economies interact—shifting trade patterns, opening new corridors, and reducing reliance on road-based transport. The discussion will explore how coordinated investment, harmonised standards, and operational alignment are being realised across member states to bring this landmark mega- project to life.

Attendee insights: Hear directly from the leaders shaping the GCC rail network on how this project will unlock new economic opportunities, strengthen regional resilience and position the Gulf as a globally competitive transport and logistics hub.

MODERATOR



Lubna Bouza
Head of Business News &
News Presenter
Sky News Arabia



H.E. Shadi Malak
Chief Executive Officer
Etihad Rail



Dr. Bashar Al Malik
Chief Executive Officer
Saudi Arabia Railways
(SAR)



Abdulrahman Salim Al Hatmi,
Group Chief Executive Officer
ASYAD



Abdulla Bin Damithan
CEO and Managing Director
DP World GCC

13:25 – 14:20

NETWORKING LUNCH

14:20 – 14:50

PANEL DISCUSSION: Shaping the future of mobility: tackling the data sharing dilemma

Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) is the key to a seamless, user-centric transport future, but its success depends entirely on data—how it's shared, processed, and leveraged at scale. Real-time information on demand, availability, and pricing must flow effortlessly between public and private operators, yet concerns over privacy, security, and competitive interests create barriers that threaten to stall progress. At the same time, the sheer volume of mobility data demands advanced cloud computing capabilities to ensure scalability, responsiveness, and integration across modes. The future of mobility depends on unlocking this data dilemma – finding a framework where secure, interoperable, and high-capacity data ecosystems enable MaaS to fulfill its potential as the foundation of connected and intelligent transport networks.

Attendee insights: Transport operators, technologists and policy makers will discuss balancing interoperability with data security, ensuring MaaS can scale while protecting user trust and commercial interests.

MODERATOR



Alessandro Tricamo
Partner, Transportation
and Services
Oliver Wyman



Dr. Abdulla AlGhaffel
Acting Director General
Abu Dhabi Integrated
Transport Center



Dr. Jacob Kam
Chief Executive Officer
MTR Corporation



Alistair Gordon
Chief Executive Officer
Keolis UK, Middle East, and
India



Dr. Abdeljabbar Ben Salem
Senior Vice President, Middle
East, North Africa and
Central Asia
RATPDev



Amer Battikhi
EVP and General Manager of
Digital and Data Solutions,
Jacobs

14:50 – 15:20

AI LEADERS PANEL: Scaling AI in transport: forging partnerships for smart, sustainable ecosystems

AI is poised to reshape transport, but scaling its impact requires more than just technological advancements—it demands strategic partnerships that bridge industries, governments, and technology providers. From predictive maintenance and real-time traffic optimization to autonomous systems and seamless multimodal integration, AI's potential is vast, yet fragmented adoption limits its transformative power. True scalability hinges on collaborative ecosystems where data flows securely, infrastructure evolves in tandem with innovation, and AI-driven efficiencies align with sustainability goals. The future of intelligent transport will not be built in silos; it will be forged through partnerships that turn isolated breakthroughs into a cohesive, smart, and sustainable mobility network.

Attendee insights: AI leaders will explore the pivotal role of cross-sector collaboration in unlocking the full potential of AI — from predictive maintenance and real-time traffic optimization, to seamless multimodal integration.

MODERATOR



Nicola Sandri
Senior Partner, Global Leader
of Transport Infrastructure
McKinsey & Company, Milan



Jeffery Sim Vee Ming
Group Chief Executive
Officer Non-Independent
Executive Director
SBS Transit



Martin Yates
Senior Government
Technology Advisor
Presight



Niko Warbanoff
Chief Executive Officer
DB E.C.O. Group



Gaurav Biswas
Founder and CEO
TrukKer

15:20 – 15:55

PANEL DISCUSSION: Autonomous transport's tipping point: will smart cities unlock its full potential?

Autonomous transport is set to revolutionize urban mobility, but its success hinges on the seamless integration with smart city infrastructure. Advanced sensor networks, AI-driven traffic management, and real-time data exchange between vehicles and city systems are key to optimizing efficiency, safety, and sustainability. By leveraging intelligent roadways, adaptive signaling, and edge computing, cities can create an environment where autonomous vehicles operate reliably, reducing congestion and emissions while enhancing accessibility. Unlocking this potential requires collaboration between policymakers, technology providers, and urban planners to ensure regulatory frameworks, digital infrastructure, and investment strategies align with the future of mobility.

Attendee insights: Policymakers, technology providers, and urban planners will discuss collaborative strategies to build adaptive, connected cities that enable safe, efficient, and sustainable autonomous mobility.

MODERATOR



Helmut Scholze
Senior Partner, MEA Mobility
and Infrastructure Lead, Dubai
Kearney



Hasan Al Hosani
Chief Executive Officer
Smart Solutions, Space42



Noémie Bercoff
Director General
Urbanloop



Régis Dumay
Chief Executive Officer
Transportation
Egis



Sammy Akif
Vice President
Advanced Technology
Progress Rail



Nabil Cheqroun
Vice President
General Manager
Honeywell Building Automation,
Middle East, Turkiye and Africa



Sebastian Mangeant
Chief Operating Officer
Abu Dhabi Transport
Company (ADT)

15:55 – 16:35

PANEL DISCUSSION: Putting decarbonization back on track: is policy accelerating or stalling modal shift?

Shifting freight and passenger transport from road to rail is widely recognized as a critical strategy for reducing emissions, yet progress remains fragmented. While policy frameworks increasingly emphasize sustainability, the effectiveness of incentives, regulations, and investment priorities varies across regions. Infrastructure bottlenecks, regulatory misalignment, and market dynamics continue to challenge large-scale modal shift. Are current policies providing the necessary momentum, or are they inadvertently reinforcing existing transport patterns?

Attendee insights: Are policy interventions translating into tangible shifts towards rail and public transport or are deeper structural changes needed to align decarbonization goals with real-world outcomes?

MODERATOR



Dr. Christian Gasparic
Partner and Global Lead
Kearney Advanced Mobility
Institute



Amadou Diallo
Chief Executive Officer
DHL Global Forwarding
Middle East and Africa



Antonia Höög
Chief Sustainability Officer
Keolis



Andrea Giuricin
Chief Executive Officer
TRA Consulting



John Fagan
UKIMEA Transport Leader
Arup



Michel Abi Saab
General Manager
Emerge



Simon Argyle
Deputy Director of
International Relations,
EU and Multilateral
The Department for
Transport (DfT)

16:35 – 17:05

PANEL DISCUSSION: Beyond the capital: is bi-lateral and multi-lateral funding delivering meaningful impact?

Bi-lateral and multi-lateral funding mechanisms are designed to drive infrastructure development, economic growth, and sustainable transport, yet their effectiveness remains a subject of debate. While these financial structures provide essential capital, the question remains: do they lead to long-term, tangible improvements, or are they hindered by bureaucracy, conditionalities, and misaligned priorities? Are recipient countries able to leverage these funds effectively, or do donor-driven agendas dictate priorities? And what changes are needed to make international funding more agile, transparent, and results-driven?

Attendee insights: This panel will examine the critical factors shaping the success of multi- and bilateral funding, from governance and transparency to regulatory frameworks and national alignment.

MODERATOR



Frank Beckers
Senior Financial Advisor
Etihad Rail



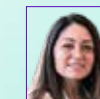
Rashid Al Mulla
Managing Director
International Project
Etihad Rail, Jordan



Almud Weitz
Regional Practice Director
for Infrastructure, Middle East
and North Africa
World Bank



Simon Bunckenburg
Head of Infrastructure and
Construction
UK Export Finance (UKEF)



Natalia Sanz
Senior Investment Officer
Transport
AIIB



Jens - Oliver Schuenzel
Director / Team Head
Land-based Transportation
KfW IPEX-Bank GmbH

CPD Certified



DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY – 1 OCTOBER

BUILDING FUTURE-PROOF TRANSPORTATION NETWORKS FOR A CONNECTED TOMORROW

10:00 – 10:05

MC OPENING REMARKS:



Amandeep Bhangu
Presenter and Moderator
Voice Media London

10:05 – 10:10

KEYNOTE



H.E. Maysarah Mahmoud Eid
Director General
Abu Dhabi Projects
Infrastructure Centre

10:10 – 10:40

MINISTERIAL PANEL DISCUSSION: Building connected nations: the role of transport and infrastructure in sustainable development

MODERATOR



André Martins
Partner and Head of
Transportation and Services, IMEA
Oliver Wyman



H.E. Davis Chirchir
Cabinet Secretary, Ministry
for Roads and Transport
Republic of Kenya



Claude Misse Ntone
Director of Railway
Transport
Ministry of Transport
Cameroon



H.E. Bilal Azhar Kayani
Minister of State for
Railways
Finance and Head of
PMDU, Pakistan



H.E. Davit Khudatyan
Minister of Territorial
Administration and
Infrastructure
Republic of Armenia



H.E. Fred Byamukama
Minister of State for Works
and Transport
Uganda



H.E. Jasurbek Choriev
Deputy Minister of
Transport
Republic of Uzbekistan

10:40 – 11:20

PANEL DISCUSSION: High-speed rail horizons: scaling networks, advancing technology, and connecting regions

As nations race to meet mobility, sustainability, and economic development goals, high-speed rail is emerging as a transformative force in reshaping regional connectivity. This session brings together global leaders driving the evolution of high-speed rail to discuss how large-scale networks are being deployed, how cutting-edge technology is improving performance and sustainability, and how integrated systems are fostering greater economic and social cohesion.

Attendee insights: The panel will explore lessons learned, strategic priorities, and the innovations powering the next era of high-speed rail.

MODERATOR



Nicola Sandri
Senior Partner, Global Leader
of Transport Infrastructure
McKinsey & Company, Milan



Michael Peter
Chief Executive Officer
Siemens Mobility



Henri Poupart Lafarge
Chief Executive Officer
Alstom



Murathan Kalyoncu
Chairman of the Board
Kalyon Insaat



Giuseppe Marino
Group Chief Executive
Officer
Hitachi Rail

11:20 – 12:00

PANEL DISCUSSION: Collide or collaborate: can intermodal business models balance competition and collaboration?

Intermodal transport operates in a paradox—shared infrastructure and seamless connectivity demand collaboration, yet market competition drives efficiency and innovation. Logistics providers, rail operators, and freight forwarders must integrate networks while protecting commercial advantage, raising the question: can cooperation strengthen resilience without compromising differentiation? Success will depend on redefining partnership models, where collaboration becomes a strategic advantage rather than a trade-off. As intermodal transport evolves, can operators master both competitive agility and cooperative efficiency?

Attendee insights: Panelists will explore how transport operators can balance collaboration and competition to build a seamless, efficient intermodal ecosystem that benefits operators, customers, and passengers.

MODERATOR



Ekaterina Sheremet
Associate Partner
McKinsey & Company



Axel Herzhauser
Chief Executive Officer
WeFreight



Aasim Siddiqui
Chief Executive Officer
Pakistan Intermodal



Samer Kaissi
Chief Executive Officer,
Gulf Cluster & Country
Manager, UAE
DHL Global Forwarding



Farid Belbouab
Group Chief Executive Officer
GulfTainer



Pablo Ruiz del Real
Co-Founder and
Managing Partner
Al Hambra Infrastructure
Advisors

12:00 – 12:40

PANEL DISCUSSION: Securing the future: can rail deliver on its supply chain promise?

Rail is frequently championed as a solution to supply chain security, offering reliability, capacity, and a lower carbon footprint; however, underinvestment, infrastructure bottlenecks, and regulatory fragmentation continue to challenge its ability to deliver the resilience and efficiency the industry demands. Freight forwarders and operators must navigate mounting disruptions—from geopolitical shifts to cyber threats—while addressing interoperability gaps that hinder cross-border flows. Yet, rail alone cannot secure supply chains. True resilience depends on seamless integration with ports, road freight, and air cargo, creating a multimodal system that enhances flexibility, mitigates risks, and ensures continuity in an increasingly unpredictable global trade landscape. What gaps still exist — and how can enhanced interoperability, targeted investment, and coordinated policy action transform rail into the backbone of secure, future-ready logistics networks?

Attendee insights: Panelists will discuss whether rail is capable of meeting the evolving demands of global supply chains.

MODERATOR



Dominik Baumeister
Senior Partner, Global Head
Transport & Logistics
PwC



Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Alebri
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
ADNOC Sour Gas



Omar AlSebeyi
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Etihad Rail Freight



Shri Praveen Kumar
Managing Director
Dedicated Freight Corridor
Corporation of India Limited
(DFCCIL)



Guenter Neureiter
Chief Executive Officer
Voestalpine Railway Systems



Olivier Laurent
Chief Executive Officer
Rail Direct



Dr. Nasser Al Bustami
Board Director and
Chief Executive Officer
Stevin Rock, RAK Rock
and Raknor



Steffen Behrens
Chief Commercial Officer
(CCO)
deugro

12:40 – 13:30

NETWORKING LUNCH

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13:30 – 13:35

KEYNOTE



H.E. Hussein Ali Safadi
Chief Executive Officer
Aqaba Development
Corporation (ADC)

13:35 – 14:05

PANEL DISCUSSION: Bridging sea and air: can ports and airports sync for growth?

Sea-to-air logistics promises maritime cost efficiency with the speed of air cargo, however gaps in maritime and air freight infrastructure, scheduling, and digital integration create inefficiencies that ripple across supply chains. Mismatched handling capacity, disconnected data systems, and fragmented scheduling force cargo into costly delays rather than smooth multimodal transitions. Unlocking sea-to-air at scale requires more than physical connectivity—it demands intelligent coordination powered by digital twin technologies, AI-driven scheduling, and automated cargo handovers that synchronize operations across ports and airports in real time.

Attendee insights: This session will explore how next-generation infrastructure and digitalization can transform sea-to-air from an underutilized model into an efficient, precision-driven logistics solution.

MODERATOR



Sudheer Marisetty
Associate Partner
McKinsey & Company



Shahab Al Jassmi
Senior Vice President, Ports
& Terminals Commercial
DP World GCC



Mohamed Jaber
Chief Executive Officer
Combi Lift Projects MEA



Naresh Ranganathan
Vice President – EAS
Velora



Anour Benazzouz
Chief Strategy and
Commercial Officer
Etihad Rail



Caesar Valero
Partner
ALG

14:05 – 14:45

PANEL DISCUSSION: On time, on budget: examining stakeholder collaboration strategies for high-speed rail success

Delivering high-speed rail projects on schedule and within budget requires strong collaboration between governments, investors, operators, and contractors. However, regulatory hurdles, financial constraints, and shifting priorities often lead to delays and cost overruns. Securing stakeholder buy-in and ensuring consistent government backing are critical to keeping projects on track—but how can these be achieved? Public policy support plays a crucial role in maintaining project momentum, while hybrid PPP models can help balance risk and investment. Technologies such as digital twins, AI-driven project management, and real-time data integration offer new ways to enhance transparency, efficiency, and coordination. By strengthening stakeholder engagement and leveraging innovation, high-speed rail projects can overcome common barriers and deliver long-term economic and mobility benefits.

Attendee insights: Panelists will discuss actionable stakeholder collaboration strategies to ensure high-speed rail projects are delivered on schedule, within budget, and with long-term economic and mobility benefits.

MODERATOR



Tom Spearing
Senior Vice President, Rail and
Transit Global Sector Leader
Hill International



Jean - Charles Vallery
Chief Executive Officer
SYSTRA



Sergio Vázquez Torró
President
& Chief Executive Officer
INECO



Hamed Zaghw
Chief Executive Officer
Middle East
AECOM



Martin Vaujour
President – Africa, Middle
East and Central Asia
Alstom



Leon Soulier
Chief Executive Officer
Business Unit – Turnkey
Siemens Mobility

14:45 – 15:15

PANEL DISCUSSION: Nextgen passenger rail: redefining value in future networks

As passenger expectations evolve and urbanization intensifies, the rail sector faces a complex challenge: how to deliver scalable, high-quality service without compromising affordability or accessibility. This session explores the recalibration of value in the next generation of passenger rail—moving beyond the MaaS framework to examine how operators and policymakers can balance the interdependent pillars of price, capacity, and customer experience. What trade-offs are acceptable in tomorrow's networks? How can systems be designed to ensure inclusive access while still meeting rising service expectations?

Attendee insights: uncover strategies for equitable, efficient, and resilient passenger rail ecosystems.

MODERATOR



John Fagan
UKIMEA Transport
Market Leader
Arup



Laurence Broseta
Chief Executive Officer
International
Keolis



Jan Christoph Harder
President of Region West, North
and Rest of World (RoW)
ŠKODA GROUP



Tewfik Bouarif
Director of the
Passenger Division
ONCF



Mohammad Khadra
Regional Director
Middle East and Africa
Talgo

15:15 – 15:45

PANEL DISCUSSION: First – last – mile: can transit oriented development close the gap?

The success of public transport hinges not just on core networks but on how easily people can access them. First-last mile connectivity remains a persistent challenge, often limiting ridership and diminishing the impact of major transit investments. Can transit-oriented development (TOD) provide the missing link, or does the gap between policy, infrastructure, and real estate remain too wide? Is TOD the silver bullet for first-last mile integration or will deeper structural barriers—land use policies, funding models, and community buy-in—continue to hinder progress? How can urban planners, developers, and transport authorities collaborate to design walkable, transit-friendly spaces that reduce car dependency? And does the promise of TOD hold up across different urban contexts, or is its success limited to high-density, well-funded cities?

Attendee insights: This session will explore practical strategies for bridging the first-last mile gap, leveraging policy, planning, and investment to transform transit nodes into vibrant, well-connected urban hubs.

MODERATOR



Sebastian Mangeant
Chief Operating Officer
Abu Dhabi Transport
Company (ADT)



Eng. Sami Ali Al Jallaf
Executive Director – Public
Transport and Licensing
Corporation
Ajman Transport Authority



Noemie Bercoff
Director General
Urbanloop



TC Chew
Managing Director
APAC
Arup



Russell Jackson
EVP Global Transit
AECOM



Dr. Muhammad Mustafa
Director of Mobility &
Planning – Middle East
and South Asia
Egis

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15:45 – 16:15

PANEL DISCUSSION: Connected and shared mobility: breaking down urban barriers

Integrating connected and shared transport remains a persistent challenge, restricted by fragmented infrastructure, siloed data systems, and regulatory inertia. How can mobility providers, city planners, and policymakers align interoperability standards that truly enable seamless travel? What are the economic and governance models that incentivize collaboration rather than competition? And can technology alone solve the urban mobility puzzle, or is a fundamental shift in policy and planning required?

Attendee insights: Panelists will discuss actionable solutions to ensure connected and shared mobility becomes a cornerstone of efficient, accessible, and sustainable urban transport.

MODERATOR



Dragos Fundulea
Vice President
Kearney



Dr. Ozgur Soy
Executive Chair
Metro Istanbul



Faisal Ameer Malik
Chief Technical Officer
Huawei Enterprise Business
Middle East & Central Asia



Ibrahim (Ibro) Muftic
Vice President – Rail and
Transit Leader
Parsons



Krzysztof Ruciński
Mobility Expert
Polish Investment and
Trade Agency



Hashem AlHendawi
Head of MENA
UITP – International
Transport Association

16:15 – 16:45

PANEL DISCUSSION: Redefining value in the MaaS ecosystem: who pays, who profits and who set the rules?

Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) promises seamless, user-centric transport, but beneath the vision lies a complex web of competing interests. As digital platforms integrate public and private mobility options, the question of value—who creates it, who captures it, and who controls it—becomes increasingly contentious. Is MaaS primarily a tool for public benefit, or does it risk becoming another fragmented, profit-driven marketplace? This discussion will unravel the power dynamics shaping the MaaS ecosystem. Who should bear the financial burden—governments, private operators, or consumers? How do revenue models balance commercial viability with accessibility and equity? And as data becomes the currency of mobility, who ultimately dictates the rules of engagement?

Attendee insights: Panelists will debate whether MaaS is on track to deliver a truly integrated transport future – or if misaligned incentives and regulatory uncertainty will prevent it from reaching its full potential.

MODERATOR



Ekaterina Sheremet
Associate Partner
McKinsey & Company



Eng. Ahmed Alshibani
Integrated Transport
Division Director
Integrated Transport
Center, Abu Dhabi



Chris Snyder
EMEA CEO and Global
Co-Chief Operating Officer
Via



Omran Malek
Head of Smart Autonomous
Vehicle Industry (SAVI) Cluster
Abu Dhabi Investment Office



Lorenzo Modena
CEO and Founder
OpenMove

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16:45 – 17:15

PANEL DISCUSSION: Rail's competitive edge: challenging air and road in the race for regional connectivity

Rail operators are at the forefront of transforming regional connectivity, positioning rail as a faster, cleaner, and more reliable alternative to air and road. This discussion will explore how operators are enhancing competitiveness through efficiency gains, customer-focused services, and cross-border integration. Panelists will share perspectives on where rail holds the strongest advantages, how to overcome bottlenecks in capacity and interoperability, and what strategies are needed to capture greater freight and passenger market share. The session will also consider how operators can work collectively to shift passengers and cargo and travelers onto rail, strengthening the mode's role as a backbone of regional trade and mobility.

Attendee insights: This session will explore whether smarter coordination between rail and aviation can unlock a more resilient and sustainable regional mobility framework.

MODERATOR



Lorenzo Trittoni
Partner, Transportation
and Services
Oliver Wyman



Diego Diaz
International Director
and President
SNCF International



Inmaculada Gutiérrez
Chief Executive Officer
International Projects
Renfe



Azza AlSuwaidi
Deputy
Chief Executive Officer
Etihad Rail Mobility

17:15 – 17:40

PANEL DISCUSSION: Next-gen high speed mobility technologies: disruptive innovation or CAPEX burden?

High-speed mobility is evolving rapidly, with cutting-edge technologies promising to redefine transport efficiency and connectivity. But are these innovations true game-changers, or do they come with a price tag that outweighs their benefits? As hyperloops, maglev systems, and next-generation rail technologies push the boundaries of speed and sustainability, the debate over their viability intensifies. This session will examine whether next-gen high-speed transport is a necessary leap forward or an overambitious CAPEX drain. Do the long-term economic and environmental gains justify the upfront investment? Are these technologies scalable, or will they remain niche solutions for select corridors?

Attendee insights: Panelists will explore whether the economic and social benefits of next generation mobility systems outweigh the upfront investment.

MODERATOR



Salim Essaid
Business Editor
The National



Adriano Giotto
President
Ironlev



Ayman Ashour
Chief Executive Officer
Siemens Mobility Turnkey MEA
and Siemens Mobility UAE
Siemens Mobility



Denis Tudor
Chief Executive Officer
& Co-founder
SwissPod



Armando Fombella
General Manager
and Project Director
Renfe KSA



Harj Dhaliwal
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Nevomo

DAY 3 – THURSDAY – 2 OCTOBER

DRIVING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION THROUGH COLLABORATION, STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, AND INNOVATION

10:00 – 10:20 PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: Hafeet Rail: from blueprint to reality



Ahmed Al Musawa
Al Hashemi
Chief Executive Officer
Hafeet Rail

10:20 – 10:30 KEYNOTE: Beyond the station: ADT’s vision for connected cities



Saeed Salem AlSuwaidi
Chief Executive Officer
Abu Dhabi Transport
Company (ADT)

10:30 – 11:10 PANEL DISCUSSION: Breaking the large CAPEX project delivery deadlock: reimagining project execution

Large-scale rail infrastructure projects continue to face persistent delivery challenges - from protracted timelines and budget escalations to fragmented governance and rigid procurement models. This session will convene leading contractors, policymakers, and asset owners to examine how the industry can rewire its approach to execution. What innovations in contracting, planning, and digital delivery are helping projects stay on track? And how can the sector shift from reactive problem-solving to proactive, performance-based delivery?

Attendee insights: Gain practical insight into how leading rail stakeholders are rethinking procurement, planning, and execution models to overcome delays and cost overruns in large-scale infrastructure delivery.

MODERATOR



Naushad Oomer
Senior Client Development
Advisor
McKinsey & Company



Valeriano Salciccia
Chief Executive Officer
Salcef Group S.p.A



Tolga Akkas
Chief Executive Officer
Doğuş Construction



Vytis Zalimas
Chief Executive Officer
LTG Infra



Jafar Oklah
Chief Executive Officer
National Infrastructure
Construction Company



Paul Button
Acting Chief Operations
Officer
Trojan General
Contracting

11:10 – 11:25 Project Highlight: Mega railway projects in Vietnam



Tran Thien Canh
Director General
Vietnam Railway Authority
Ministry of Construction of Vietnam

11:25 – 12:00

PANEL DISCUSSION: Cross border rail: how can international partnerships drive economic, modal and social transformation?

Cross-border rail has the potential to transform regional economies, reduce reliance on road and air transport, and enhance global connectivity. Yet, despite its promise, fragmented regulations, mismatched infrastructure standards, and geopolitical complexities often hinder seamless international rail operations. Can greater collaboration between governments, operators, and investors unlock the full potential of cross-border rail? Examining the frameworks needed to accelerate rail integration across borders raises key questions: what policy alignments and financial mechanisms can make cross-border projects more viable and how can interoperability challenges – ranging from signaling systems to customs procedures—be overcome?

Attendee insights: How can policymakers, regulators, and operators collaborate to overcome the complexities of cross - border rail and foster more efficient transport corridors for both passengers and freight.

MODERATOR



Dominik Baumeister
Senior Partner, Global Head
Transport & Logistics
PwC



Mohd. Zarif Hashim
Chief Executive Officer
Malaysia Rapid Transit
Corporation (MRT Corp)



Zahi Khalil
Director General and
Deputy Chairman
Jordan Hijaz Railway



Martin Ausserdorfer
Chief Executive Officer,
Railtraction Company S.p.A,
Member of the Board
Brenner Base Tunnel



Cuthbert Malindi
Managing Director
Zambia Railways



Nasser AlQahtani
Interoperability Director
GCC Railways Authority

12:00 – 12:30

PANEL DISCUSSION: Aligning transport finance with climate goals: shifting from reporting to emissions reduction

While ESG frameworks and climate disclosures are now standard practice, many transport projects still struggle to translate financial pledges into measurable decarbonization outcomes. Bridging this divide requires a shift in financial instruments and investment strategies to prioritize tangible emissions reductions over compliance-based reporting. Mechanisms must be in place to ensure that capital flows effectively support low-carbon infrastructure, fleet electrification, and modal shift. Collaboration between investors, policymakers, and transport operators is essential to driving systemic change - moving beyond green labels to real-world impact.

Attendee insights: This session will provide practical insights into moving beyond ESG compliance to financing transport projects that achieve real-world carbon reductions.

MODERATOR



Frank Beckers
Senior Financial Advisor
Etihad Rail



Paul Ling
Business Manager
UK Export Finance (UKEF)



Katie Ferrier
Regional Director UKI & MEA
Achilles Information Ltd



Rafael Tello
Global Sustainability President
Middle East President
Ambipar

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12:30 – 13:00

PANEL DISCUSSION: Integrating shared mobility into mass transit networks: can public private collaboration bridge the gap?

Seamlessly integrating shared mobility with mass transit has the potential to enhance accessibility, reduce congestion, and improve first-last mile connectivity. However, misaligned incentives, regulatory complexities, and infrastructure limitations often prevent shared mobility services from complementing public transport effectively. What role should public agencies and private mobility providers play in creating a unified network? Can policy frameworks and data-sharing agreements enable true integration without compromising competition? And how can financial and operational models be structured to ensure shared mobility enhances – rather than disrupts – mass transit systems?

Attendee insights: The discussion will explore the practical steps needed to turn fragmented mobility services into a cohesive, user-centric transport ecosystem to the benefit of passengers.

MODERATOR



Virginia Borkoski
Managing Director
Transit
Hatch



Roger Cruickshank
Middle East Transportation
Market Lead &
AtkinsRéalis Fellow
AtkinsRéalis



Darren McBride
EMEA PMC and
Rail Practice Lead
Parsons



Bryan Harvey
Vice President – Middle East
Jacobs

13:00 – 13:30

PANEL DISCUSSION: From pilots to production: how can we fast-track transport innovation cycles?

The gap between successful pilot projects and large-scale deployment remains one of the biggest hurdles in transport innovation. While new technologies – from AI-driven traffic management to next-generation rail systems – show promise in controlled environments, many struggle to transition into widespread use due to regulatory delays, funding constraints, and integration challenges. Are current procurement and regulatory processes equipped to support rapid innovation? And how can public and private stakeholders work together to create agile frameworks that accelerate adoption without compromising safety and efficiency?

Attendee insights: This panel will explore strategies to streamline deployment, scale solutions faster, and ensure that promising transport technologies move beyond pilot projects to full scale impact.

MODERATOR



Alexander Kondrat
Strategy & Transformation
Director, Middle East Rail Lead
PwC Middle East



Sunil Prasad
Head of Aerospace
and Rail
L & T Technology Services
Limited



Prisca Flattot
Senior Vice President
Technical and Operational
Performance
SYSTRA



Debu Chakraborty
Senior Regional Director, MEA
Bentley Systems



Alex Haag
Co-Founder &
Chief Executive Officer
Futurail



Dr. Hadi Sanei
Global Director – Transit
Systems
Hatch

14:25 – 14:45

Global Rail Youth Circle

15:30

CLOSING CEREMONY

15:30 – 15:35

MC Welcome

15:35 – 15:40

CLOSING SPEECH



H.E. Shadi Malak
Chief Executive Officer
Etihad Rail

15:40 – 15:45

Awarding Sponsors and Partners

15:45 – 15:50

NMIC Launch Ceremony

15:50 – 15:55

Announcement of Innovation Awards Winners

15:55 – 16:00

Hackathon 2025 Winners Announcements

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Engagement & Selection Brief



139 abstracts
submitted globally
(+65% from 2024)



15 reviewers
in the technical
committee



38%
acceptance rate

Agenda Breakdown



53 speakers
confirmed for
participation



**14 conference
tracks**
in high-interest topics

Academic	German Centre for Rail Traffic Research, Indian Institute of Technology, University of Birmingham, Monash Institute of Railway, Korea Institute of Science and Tech
Early Innovators	TRE-ALTAMIRA, CEMIT, Kodify, Ironlev, Next Generation Robotics, RazorSecure
Contractors	DB engineering, Atkins, Parson, LTTTS, MG Consult
Key Suppliers	Bentley, Siemens, SYSTRA, Honeywell, RailSync, Voestalpine
Operators & Organisations	UIC, L&T Metro Rail, East Japan Railway Company, Korea National Railroad Corporation, Abu Dhabi Transport Centre, Toronto Transit Commission

Agenda Overview

DAY 1

• High-speed Rail
• AI and Data-driven Predictive Maintenance
• Digital Asset Lifecycle Management
• Improving Operational Efficiency

DAY 2

• Cybersecurity Solutions and Protocols
• Innovation in Construction and Infrastructure
• Passenger Experience
• Innovations in Predictive and Condition-based Maintenance
• Urban Planning and TOD

DAY 3

• End-to-end Sustainable Transportation
• Monitoring and Risk Management in Rail Operations
• Physical Security and Operational Safety
• Project Planning and Management
• Advancements in Railway Signaling and Communications

Technical Conference Agenda

DAY 1 – TUESDAY – 30 SEPTEMBER			
 SESSION: 1 TITLE: HIGH-SPEED RAIL		 SESSION: 2 TITLE: AI AND DATA-DRIVEN PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE	
CO-CHAIRS		CO-CHAIRS	
Hartwig Lankow, Vice President – Customer Management Middle East & Eastern Africa, Voestalpine Railway Systems		Bryan Harvey, Vice President, Middle East, Jacobs	
11:00 – 11:20 HSR Market Liberalization Michele Gesauldi, High Speed Rail Advisor, International Union of Railways (UIC)		12:20 – 12:40 Leading Transition From Reactive Maintenance to Predictive, Data-driven Management John Smith, Senior Vice President,, Sales and Marketing, Digital Track Solutions, Voestalpine Railway Systems GmbH	
11:20 – 11:40 Navigating the Complexities of Cross-Border High-Speed Rail: Challenges, Specificities, and Solutions Stephane Mortier, Director, SYSTRA		12:40 – 13:00 From Acceleration Data to Rail Intelligence: Leveraging In-Service Trains to Achieve Operational Excellence Niels Goet, Chief Product Officer, CEMIT	
11:40 – 12:00 Impact of High-Speed Rail on Spatial Planning Marc Guigon, Founder, MG Consult		13:00 – 13:20 Reimagining Railway Asset Lifecycle Management with Digital Twins and AI Muhammad Anwel, CTO, Kodifly	
12:00 – 12:20 Performance Assessment of High-Speed Transport Systems: Comparing HSR, Maglev, and HyperLoop Nie Ying, Senior Director Level Designer, CRRC		13:20 – 14:00 Networking Lunch	

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Technical Conference Agenda

DAY 1 – TUESDAY – 30 SEPTEMBER			
 SESSION: 3 TITLE: DIGITAL ASSET LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT		 SESSION: 4 TITLE: IMPROVING OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY	
CO-CHAIRS		CO-CHAIRS	
Niels Goet, Chief Product Officer, CEMIT Digital		Hassan Hemida, Professor of Computational Mechanics and Aerodynamics, University of Birmingham	
14:00 – 14:20 Digital Twins Throughout the Rail Asset Lifecycle Andrew Smith, Rail Industry Solutions Manager, Bentley Systems Ltd		15:20 –15:40 Ironlev Passive Magnetic Levitation on Conventional Railways: Ongoing Pilot Tests and Technological Advancements Lorenzo Andrea Parrotta, Co-Founder and Board Member, IronLev	
14:20 – 14:40 RailXplore Fusion: AI-powered Rail Infrastructure applications for Secure, Sustainable, and Profitable Operations Daniel Weitze, Portfolio Management Connectivity & IoT, Siemens Mobility		15:40 – 16:00 Improving Efficiency and Safety in Railways through Real Time Condition Monitoring Using Revenue Trains Ravi Ravitharan, Director, Monash Institute of Railway Technology	
14:40 – 15:00 Maximizing operational business value with the next-generation data model for railway infrastructure & operations Etienne Pansart, SYSTRA, Head of Partership and Academic Innovation		16:00 – 16:20 Building Smarter, Safer, and Sustainable Rail: How Integrated Digital Platforms Are Transforming Operations Romain Mahe, Rail Vertical Leader for META, Honeywell	
15:00 – 15:20 Bridging the Interoperability Gap: Leveraging ERTMS for Advanced CBTC Metro Applications Frédéric Bernaudin, Head of Bid and Innovation, Compagnie des Signaux		16:20 – 16:40 Modeling and Analysis of Virtual Coupling Railway Operations for Unit Trains in Large-Scale Capacity Scenarios Lei Wang, PhD Student, University of Birmingham	
		16:40 – 17:00 RailSync – The world’s first digital solution with real-time rail operations for terminals, shunter, and railway undertakings Christoph Kappler, CEO, RailSync	

Technical Conference Agenda

DAY 1 – TUESDAY – 30 SEPTEMBER	DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY – 1 OCTOBER
 SESSION: 5 TITLE: INNOVATION IN CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	 SESSION: 6 TITLE: CYBERSECURITY SOLUTIONS AND PROTOCOLS
CO-CHAIRS	CO-CHAIRS
Hartwig Lankow, Vice President – Customer Management Middle East & Eastern Africa, Voestalpine Railway Systems	Soroush Tazjeri, Director of Cybersecurity, Sener
17:00 – 17:20 Maximizing efficiency in rail delivery using AI, digital tools and innovation in design & construction Gary Furphy, Director – Digital Engineering – Middle East, Jacobs 17:20 – 17:40 Long distance tunnelling: challenges and trends Dr. Karin Bächli, Head of Business Development and Presales, Herrenknecht AG	10:00 – 10:20 Building Resilient and Intelligent Rail Operations with AI-Driven Industrial Platforms Goran Novkovic, Director, Industrial Cybersecurity, Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) 10:20 – 10:40 Securing OT-IT Integration in Railway Systems: Cybersecurity Challenges and Solutions Dr. Ali Shikai, Cyber Security Manager, AtkinsRealis 10:40 – 11:00 Cybersecurity Challenges in AI-Driven Railway Systems Christian Schlehuber, Managing Director / Lead Cybersecurity Expert, Cybershield 11:00 – 11:20 Digital Maintenance: An Expensive Cyber Security Blind Spot Alexander Cowan, CEO, RazorSecure

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Technical Conference Agenda

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY – 1 OCTOBER	
 SESSION: 7 TITLE: INNOVATIVE MATERIALS AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE	 SESSION: 8 PASSENGER EXPERIENCE
CO-CHAIRS	CO-CHAIRS
Hassan Hemida, Professor of Computational Mechanics and Aerodynamics, University of Birmingham	Marc Guigon, Founder MG Consult
11:20 – 11:40 Thermal Comfort Process as a Key Design Factor for Lifecycle Energy Efficiency in Elevated Urban Rail Stations Akmalia Zain, Post – Graduate Researcher, Heriot-Watt University 11:40 – 12:00 Thiocrete: Cement-Free, Water-Free, Low-CO2 Sulfur Concrete for Sustainable Railway Sleepers Denis Coppieters, CEO, ThioTrack 12:00 – 12:20 Efficient and Cost-Effective Methods for Controlling Wind-Blown Sand on Railway Tracks Hassan Hemida, Professor, University of Birmingham 12:20 – 12:40 Durability Assessment and Sustainable Application of Recycled Aggregate Concrete for Etihad Rail Wajeeha Mahmood, Structural Engineer, National Consultant Office for Engineering 12:40 – 13:20 Networking Lunch	13:20 – 13:40 Digital Innovation at Korea National Railway: Beyond what you have seen before Hoon SOHN, Ph.D., Executive Director, Korea Railway Innovation Institute, Korea National Railway Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, South Korea 13:40 – 14:00 The Public Transport Attractiveness Index: A Multi-Source Framework for Comparing Transit Competitiveness Across Time and Space Johan C. Haveland, CEO, Asistobe AS 14:00 – 14:20 A Global Perspective: A Passenger Experience across 3 Metros, 3 Cities Keith Allen, Principal Architect, Hassell 14:20 – 14:40 Designing Passenger Experiences that People Love Jeremy White, Transport Design Director, Seymour Powell 14:40 – 15:00 Hyderabad Metro Rail – A New Paradigm in Seamless Urban Commutes KVB Reddy, MD and CEO, L&T Metro Rail

Technical Conference Agenda

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY – 1 OCTOBER	
 SESSION: 9 TITLE: INNOVATIONS IN PREDICTIVE AND CONDITION BASED MAINTENANCE	 SESSION: 10 URBAN PLANNING AND TOD
CO-CHAIRS Ravi Ravitharan, Director, Monash Institute of Railway Technology	CO-CHAIRS Sachin Bansal, Delivery Head – Aerospace and Rail, L&T Technology Services
15:00 – 15:20 ARGO: A Mobile Robotic Platform for Automated Undercarriage Inspection and Condition-Based Rolling Stocks Maintenance Massimiliano Gabardi, CEO, Next Generation Robotics	16:00 – 16:20 Urban rail and property integration – how to make it stack up? Peter Morley, Principal, Hassell
15:20 – 15:40 Cost-benefit-analysis of predictive maintenance solutions for rail infrastructure Jacob Spanke, Scientific Advisor, DZSF	16:20 – 16:40 Environment Driven Urban Development for the Next 100 Years: Implementing DX and GX in Takanawa Gateway City Keisuke Kiyotani, Deputy Director, East Japan Railway Company
15:40 – 16:00 Predictive Maintenance and Actionable Insights in Railway Wheel Maintenance: New Opportunities through AI and ML-Based Models Renate Grabler-Gußmagg, CEO, Nextsense GmbH	16:40 – 17:00 Planning and Implementing a Multi-Modal Hub through Transit oriented Development (TOD) Principles: The Case study of Hyderabad, India Vijayalakshmi K, Advisor, Balaji Rail Road System P Ltd
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DAY 3 – THURSDAY – 2 OCTOBER	
 SESSION: 11 TITLE: END-TO-END SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION	 SESSION: 12 TITLE: MONITORING AND RISK MANAGEMENT IN RAIL OPERATIONS
CO-CHAIRS Jacob Spanke, Scientific Advisor, DZSF	CO-CHAIRS Prof. Ravi Ravitharan, Director, Monash Institute of Railway Technology
10:00 – 10:20 Transport integration with the example of High Speed and Urban Mobility Cyril Baligand, Deputy Practice Lead – Rail & PMC – EMEA, Parsons	11:20 – 11:40 Intelligent Fibre Optic based Intrusion Detection Sachin Bansal, Delivery Head – Aerospace and Rail, L & T Technology Services
10:20 – 10:40 Leveraging Carbon Tracking for End-to-End Sustainable Transport Deepika Parmar, Senior Sustainability Manager, SYSTRA	11:40 – 12:00 A Systemic In-Service Monitoring Approach to Train-Track Interaction and Performance Assessment Mani Entezami, Senior Research Fellow, University of Birmingham, CTO, MoniRail Ltd
10:40 – 11:00 Planning a Seamless Integrated Mobility System for Abu Dhabi Shadi Anani, Transport Policy & Planning Consultant, Abu Dhabi Integrated Transport Centre	12:00 -12:20 Condition –Based Rail Monitoring for Proactive Ground Risk Management Majed Abdallah, Business Development Manager, Middle East & Turkiye, TRE ALTAMIRA
11:00 – 11:20 Improving end – to –end journey time by implementing robust first and last mile connection Jarod Smith, Principal Transport Planner, Jacobs	12:20 -13:00 Networking Lunch

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Technical Conference Agenda

DAY 3 – THURSDAY – 2 OCTOBER

	SESSION: 13 TITLE: PHYSICAL SECURITY AND OPERATIONAL SAFETY		SESSION: 14 TITLE: PROJECT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT
CO-CHAIRS Christian Schlehuber, Managing Director, CyberShield (CS-Consulting GmbH)		CO-CHAIRS Marc Guigon, Founder, MG Consult	
13:00 – 13:20 Application of Systems Engineering, Ergonomics and Anthropometrics associated with the Railway Project Jason Nguyen, Chief Technical Principal – Rail Systems & Safety Assurance, Surbana Jurong Group		14:20 – 14:40 Embedding a Vision for Operational End-state During Project Planning Rupert Ingham, Director, Grant Thornton	
13:20 – 13:40 Balanced, Integrated Security Approach for Railways Soroush Tazerji, Global Director of Security Services, Sener Group		14:40 – 15:00 On The Right Track: Can Strategic Planning be Used to Overcome Challenges in African Railway Development and Enhance Investment Potential? Alexander Farnell, Country Manager / Senior Project Manager, SYSTRA	
13:40 – 14:00 RoboDogs in Rail – Autonomous Inspection, Security Operations, and Coordinated Intervention for the Rail Systems of Tomorrow Michael Kirchhof, Managing Director, Dr. Kirchhof Ventures GmbH		15:00 – 15:20 Managing Engineering Changes in Complex Rail Projects: A Systems Engineering Approach Janarthan Vedantham, Senior Systems Engineering Manager, AECOM	
14:00 – 14:20 Revolutionizing Track Maintenance with Autonomous Track Inspection Vehicles for Enhanced Efficiency and Reliability Kaushik V N, MS Research Scholar, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras		15:20 – 15:40 Benchmarking Financial Models for High-Speed Rail Infrastructure Michele Gesauldi, High Speed Rail Advisor, International Union of Railways (UIC)	

Technical Conference Agenda

DAY 3 – THURSDAY – 2 OCTOBER

	SESSION: 15 TITLE: ADVANCEMENTS IN RAILWAY SIGNALING AND COMMUNICATIONS
CO-CHAIRS Christian Schlehuber, Managing Director, CyberShield (CS-Consulting GmbH)	
15:40 – 16:00 Train2Cloud: Evolution of CBTC with Cloud Technology Melih Arpacı, Vice President for Global Sales Mass Transit, Siemens Mobility	16:20 –16:40 Unlocking the Potential: Lessons Learned from ERTMS Implementation and Evolution in Rail Industry Digital Signaling Silvia Dominguez, Head of ERTMS, INECO
16:00 – 16:20 GSMR to FRMCS Migration – Potential challenges and Road map for the migration Tasneem Ahmed, Railway Systems Manager, Indra Group	16:40 Close of Global Rail Technical Conference

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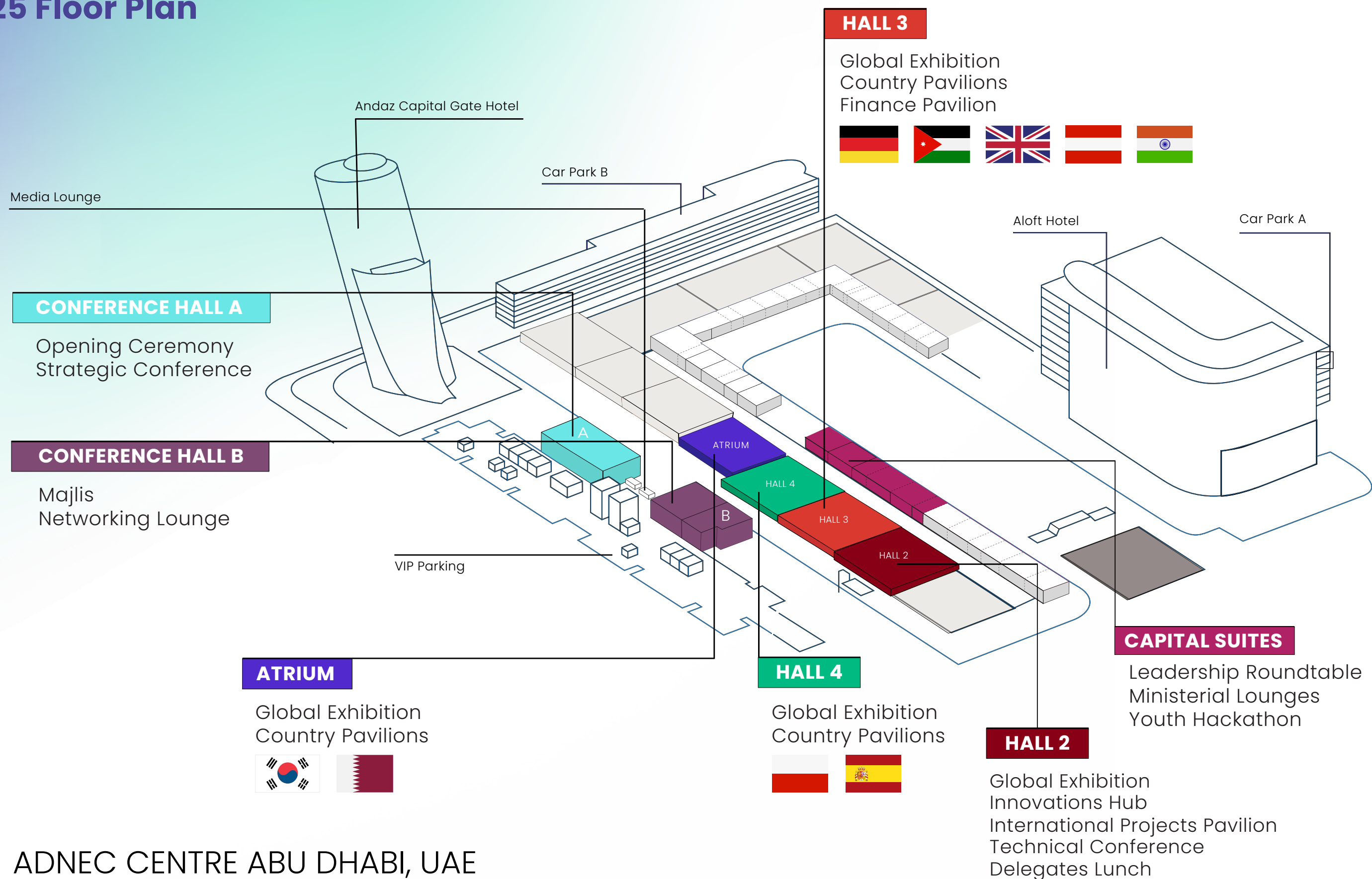
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