



# **ERTMS**

## **the global standard for Train Control**

**Intercâmbio de conhecimento Ferroviário**  
**Brazil – European Union**

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**Brasilia, Brazil**

[WWW.UNIFE.ORG](http://WWW.UNIFE.ORG)

- **Introduction: who we are**
- **PTC vs ETCS**
- **ERTMS levels**
- **ERTMS examples & system evolution**
- **Conclusion**

# INTRODUCTION

- **UNIFE represents the European Rail Supply Industry**
- **Based in Brussels since 1992**
- **The trusted partner of European and International Institutions in all matters related to rail and transport**
- **Full members:**  
Over 80 of the largest and small and medium-sized companies in the rail supply sector
- **Associated members:**  
17 including 15 National Associations, representing almost 1000 suppliers of railway equipment
- **UNIFE members have an 84% market share in Europe and supply more than 46% of the worldwide production of rail equipment and services.**



**The ERTMS/ETCS suppliers are gathered in the  
UNISIG consortium**

**ALSTOM**



**BOMBARDIER**



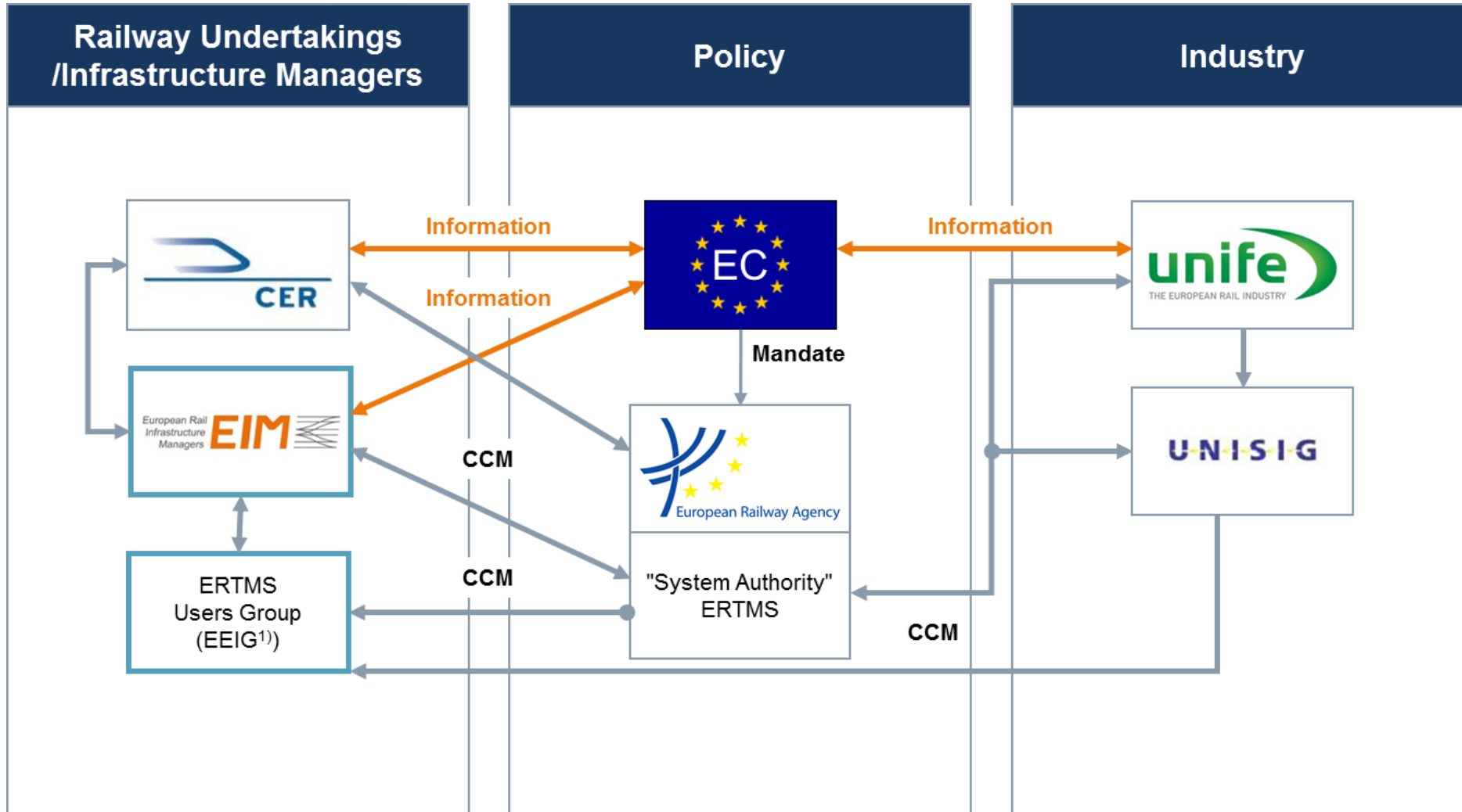
**THALES**

**SIEMENS**



**UNISIG**

# Stakeholders in the European context of ERTMS



CCM: Change Control Management for the ERTMS/ETCS specifications

# PTC & ETCS



# **ERTMS & PTC**

## **Overall description**

**European Railway Traffic  
Management System (ERTMS)**

**AAR Positive Train Control  
(PTC)**

### **ERTMS**

**The ERTMS system is administered by an independent body, the European Railway Agency. It was created to meet different customer needs in an interoperable way and became the European standard. After that it has been adopted by other countries/customers worldwide. The different needs are met by different ERTMS Levels.**

### **PTC**

**PTC is a set of safety requirements mandated by the US government after a series of accidents. The system for freight to meet the mandate that is administered and deployed by AAR is the I-ETMS system. The AAR PTC is an additional safety overlay system (as defined by AAR and FRA).**



# Introduction to Train control systems

## Overlay or Integrated

- **Overlay train control systems :**

- The safety system connects to the Signal and adds a protection layer
- Transmission to the train can be either :
  - Via a transponder (balise) ERTMS Level 1.
  - By a radio system for PTC.
    - PTC is said to be “communications-based” as it has radio & GPS

- **Integrated train control systems :**

- Are deployed
  - on new lines : require no signals and minimum trackside equipment
  - on existing lines : when the complete signaling needs to be replaced to be as a completely new system
- Integrated systems minimize the need for signals and other trackside systems.

# ETCS L1

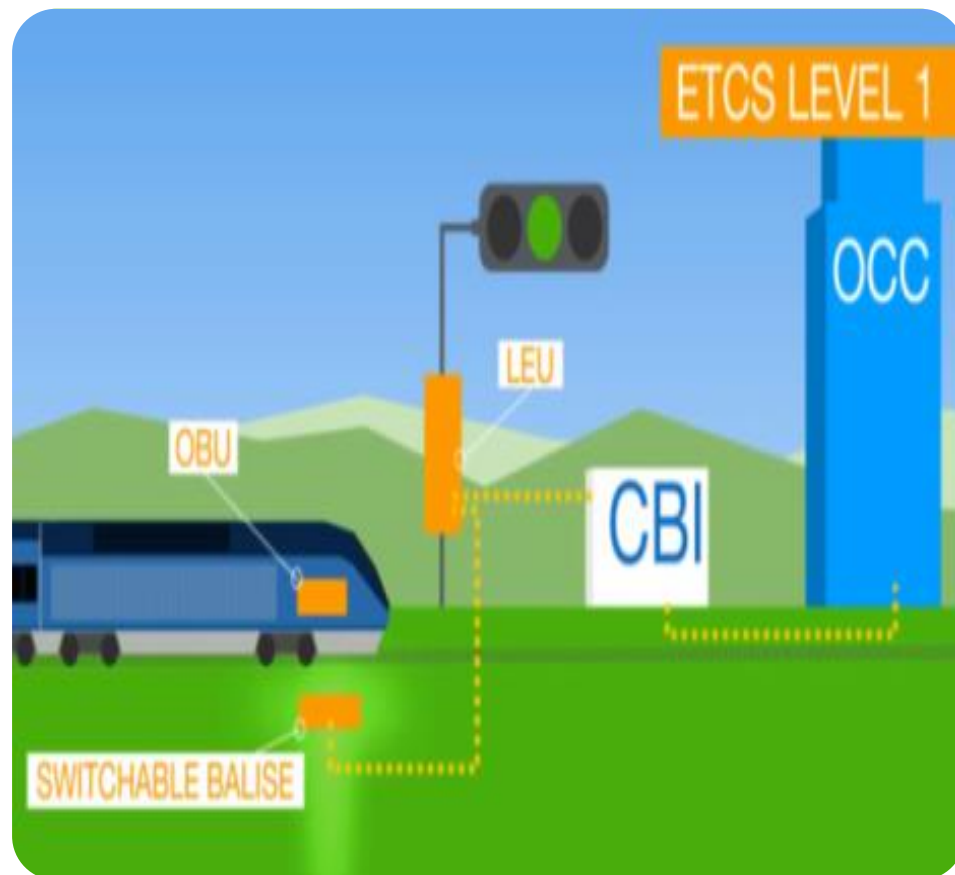
## ETCS Level 1

### Overlay train control

- Information sent from the Signal to the train
- Transmission via a Lineside unit (LEU) then a track Balise
- Onboard Unit (OBU) receives information via a balise reading antenna and ensures safety of train movements

### Key features

- No requirement for a radio network
- Overlays on all types of signalling systems



#### Legend

- On-Board Unit (OBU)
- Computer-Based Interlocking (CBI)
- Operation Control Center (OCC)
- Lineside Electronic Unit (LEU)

## An integrated system

- The trackside ETCS computer (RBC) is connected to :
  - the Operation Control Center (OCC)
  - the Interlocking system controlling the Points/Switches
- The RBC sends the movement information to the Onboard Unit (OBU) on the train. It also receives the train position.
- The OBU on the train shows the information to the driver and ensures the safety

## Key features

- In Level 2 there are no Signals :
  - Train detection is by track circuits on the track as in classical signalling
- In Level 3 : no Signals, no Track circuits :
  - Train detection is by train sending its position via radio



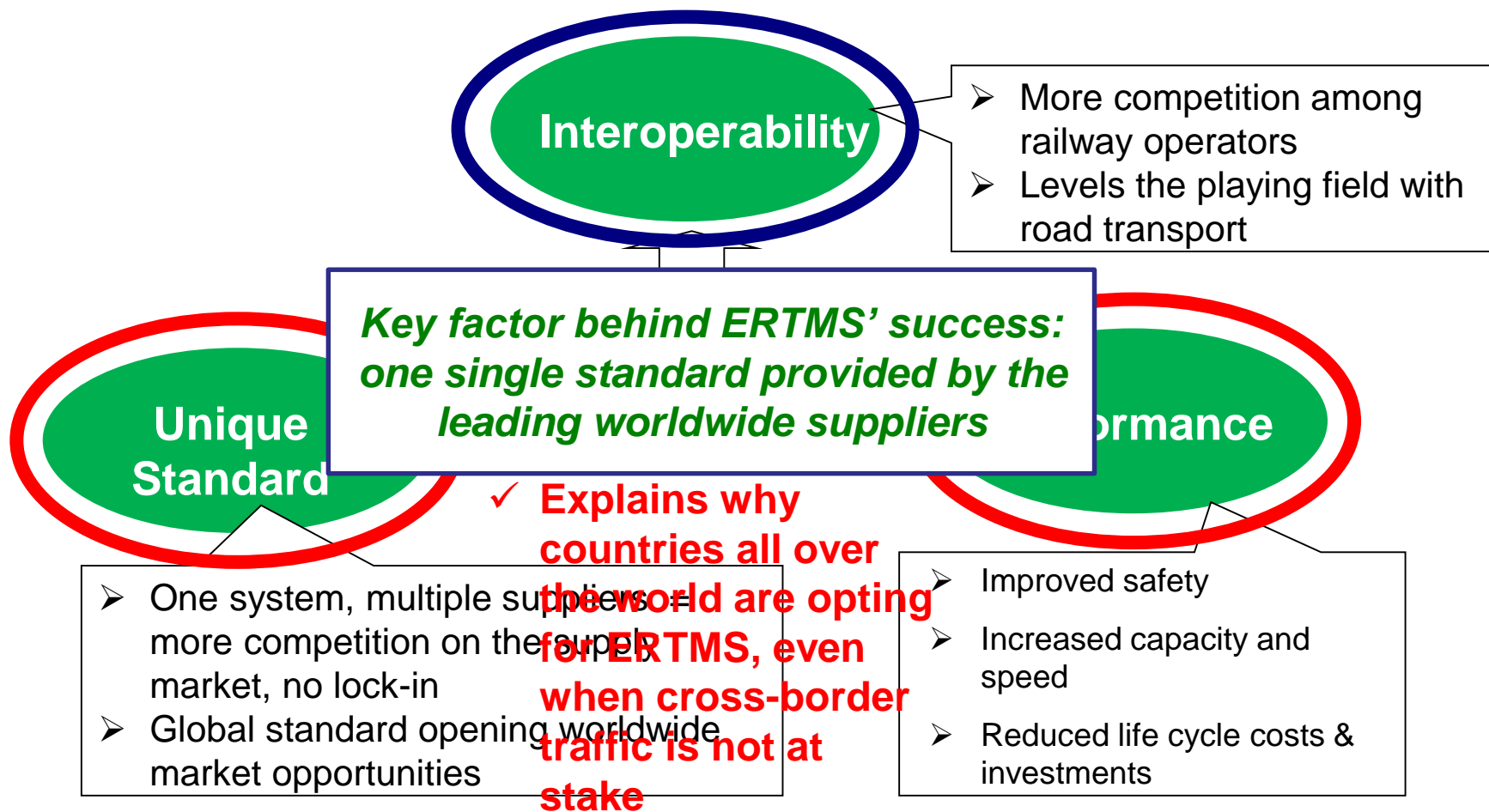
### Legend

- On-Board Unit (OBU)
- Computer-Based Interlocking (CBI)
- Operation Control Center (OCC)
- Radio-Block Center (RBC)

# ERTMS compared to PTC

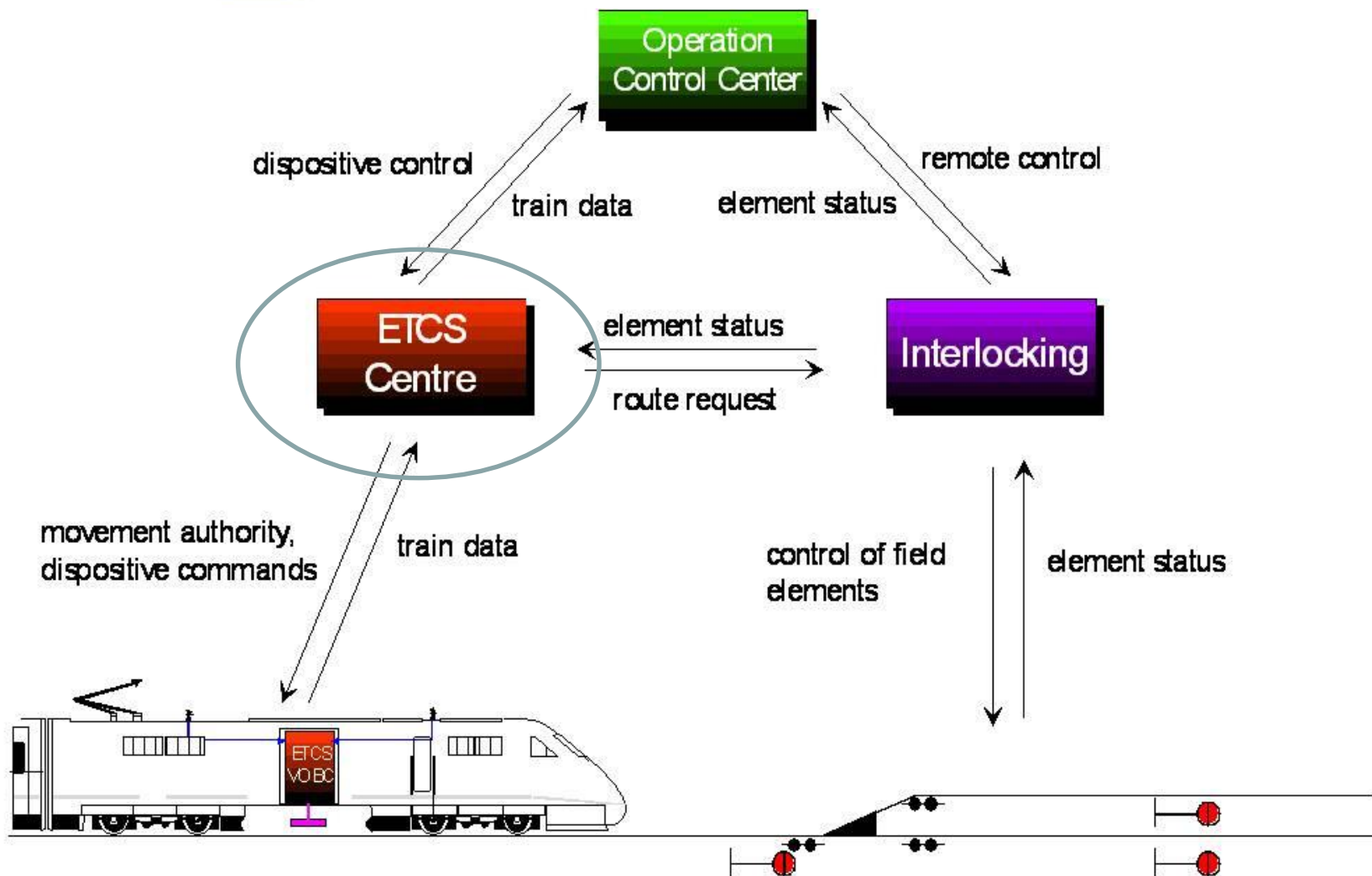
Attribute	ERTMS (Levels 1, 2 & 3)	PTC (I-ETMS)	Comments
<b>Type of functionality</b>	Overlay on signaling (Level 1) and integrated system (level 2 and 3)	Overlay on signaling.	PTC (as a usually used term by AAR and FRA) is a radio-based overlay on wayside signaling (one level). ERTMS has several levels from overlay (with signaling) up to integrated systems with no signals (Level 2) and no trackside systems (moving block or Level3)
<b>Type of operations</b>	Different types of lines	Mainly for Freight	ERTMS has been deployed on dedicated freight lines since 2007.
<b>Technology Maturity</b>	In service for more than 10 years. Being deployed in more than 40 countries	Recently in operation in USA and Brazil	ERTMS is a proven technology with proven examples of interoperability. New approved baseline (Baseline 3) is introducing ATO, alternative radios, GPS, etc.
<b>Open /detailed standard with multi-supplier base</b>	yes	no	ERTMS specifications are managed by an independent body. PTC (I-ETMS) does not have a complete set of Interface specifications to enable full interoperability.
<b>Train Location</b>	Balises . GPS being deployed on pilot lines	GPS	ERTMS suppliers have experience of GPS technology and are deploying GPS-based systems.
<b>Data Communication</b>	GSM-R, new Baseline 3 enables different radios.	256 Mhz (Brazil)	ERTMS customers can deploy their own radio standard when outside of Europe (Europe is studying what it will specify after GSM-R)..
<b>Track infrastructure (Signals and Track circuits)</b>	Only on level 1 . Level 2 needs no signals. Level 3 needs no Track Circuits either.	Signals generally needed. Track Circuits Always needed	PTC (as a usually used term) is an overlay system (one level) required by US government to add a safety level to a Signaling system. ERTMS has several levels of integration and automation levels. ERTMS Level 1 overlay does not require an additional radio system.

# ERTMS, key success factors



# ETCS LEVELS GENERAL OVERVIEW

# ETCS a part of the Signalling System





# ETCS Level 1

## System Overview



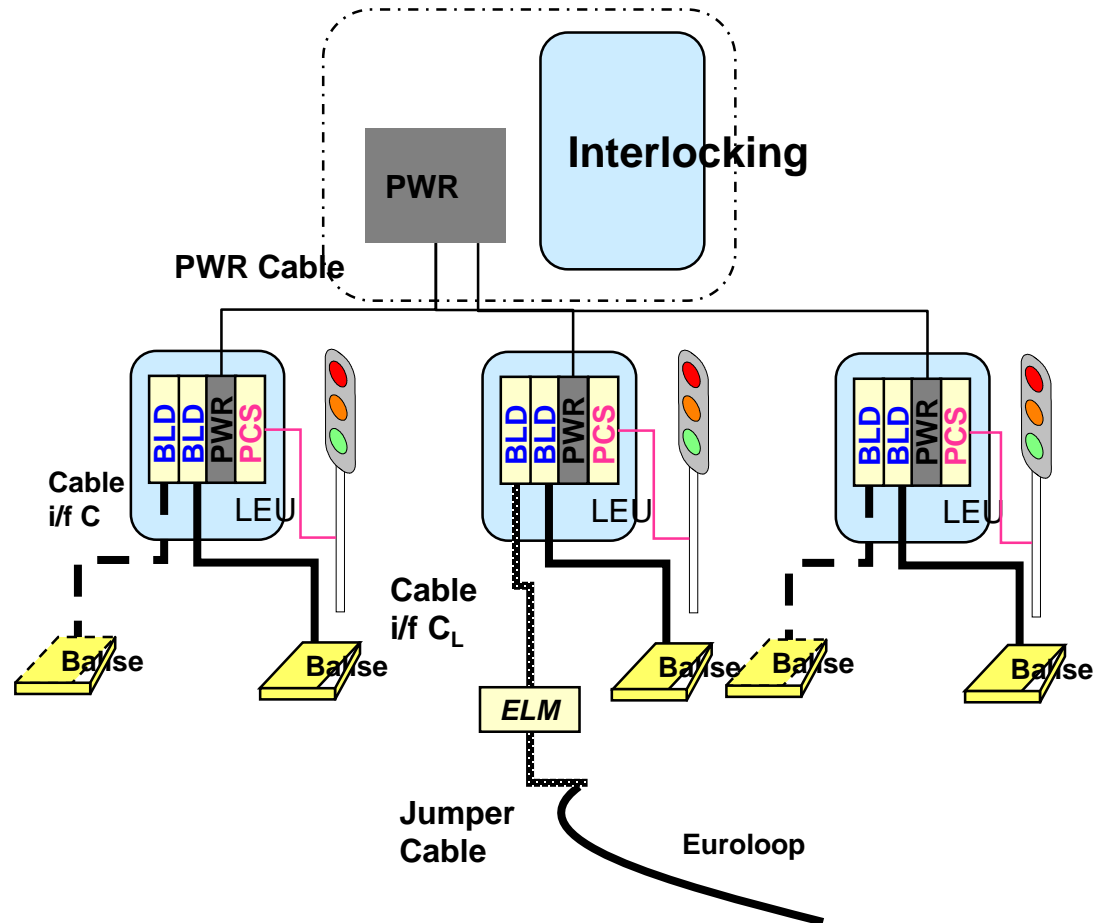
# ETCS L1 – System Components

- Balise (Tag) Drivers (BLD)
- PCS for signals up to 12 lamps
- Centralised ETCS controller
- Various LEU housing variants
- Standard Eurobalises



# ETCS L1 – Decentralised solution

- **Lineside Electronic Unit (LEU)**  
installed at signal location
- **Consisting of :**
  - BLDs
  - PWR
  - PIO / current sensors PCS
  - Coupling to adjacent LEUs via parallel I/O
  - Balises (Tags)



■ **Interface between LEU and signal via lamp circuit or relay contact**

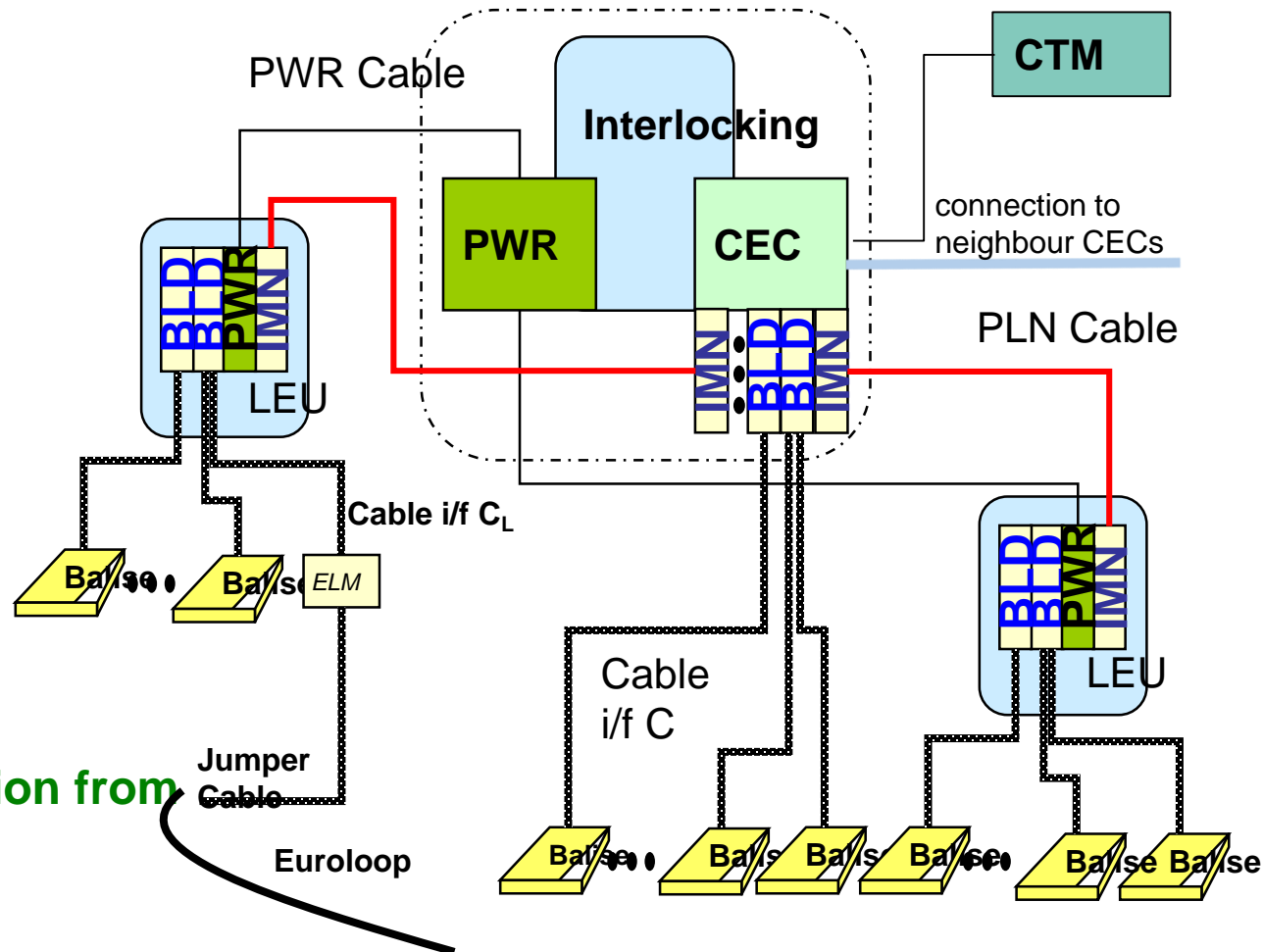
# ETCS L1 – Centralized solution

- Direct connection CEC-Balises within station area or remote LEUs via PLN Cable

- Consisting of :

- CEC
- Remote LEU
- BLDs
- PWR
- Connection to neighbour CECs
- Balises, Euroloop

- Digital signal information from Interlocking via CEC

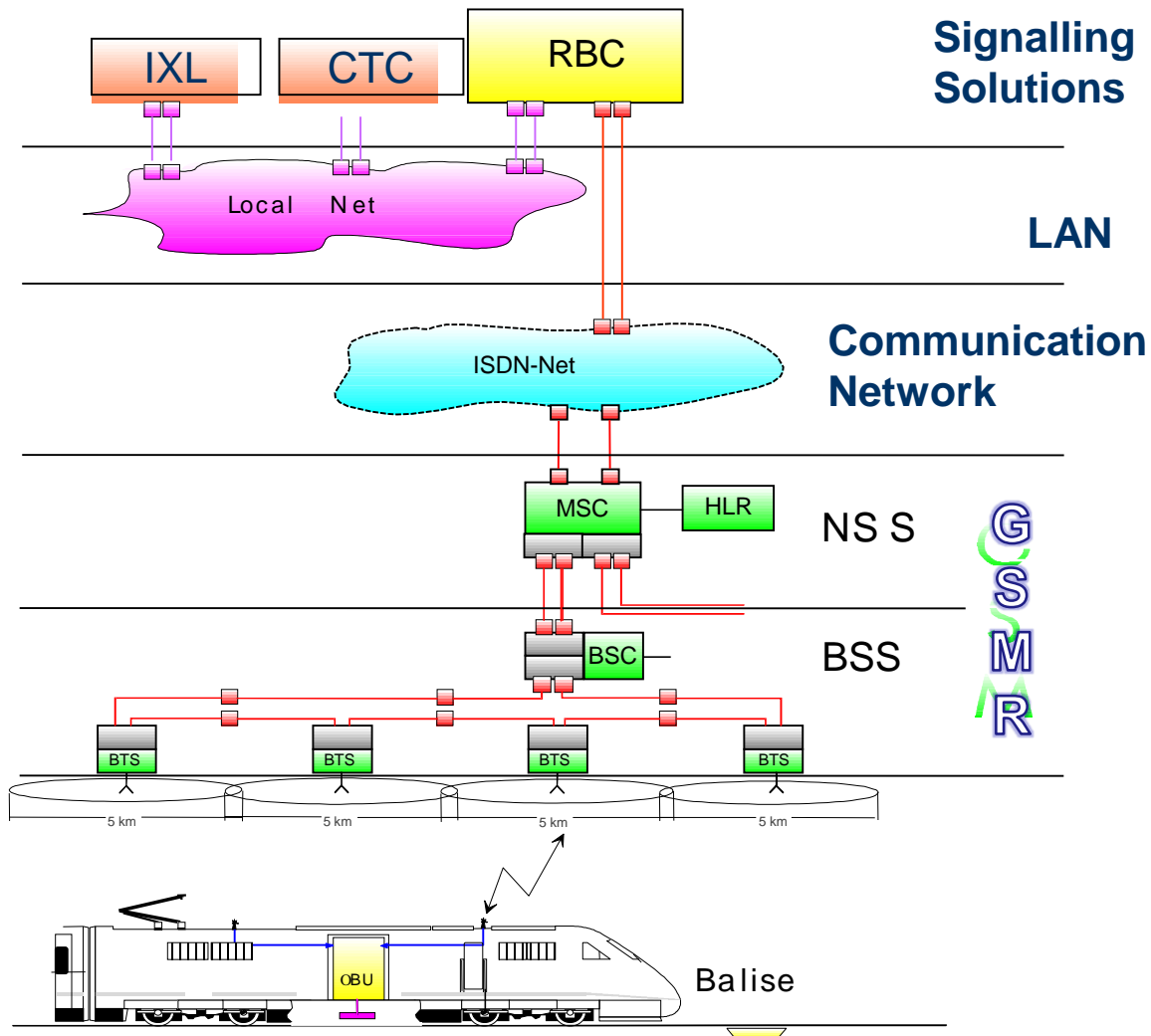


# ETCS L2 & L3

## System Overview



# ERTMS L2/3 = ETCS + GSM-R



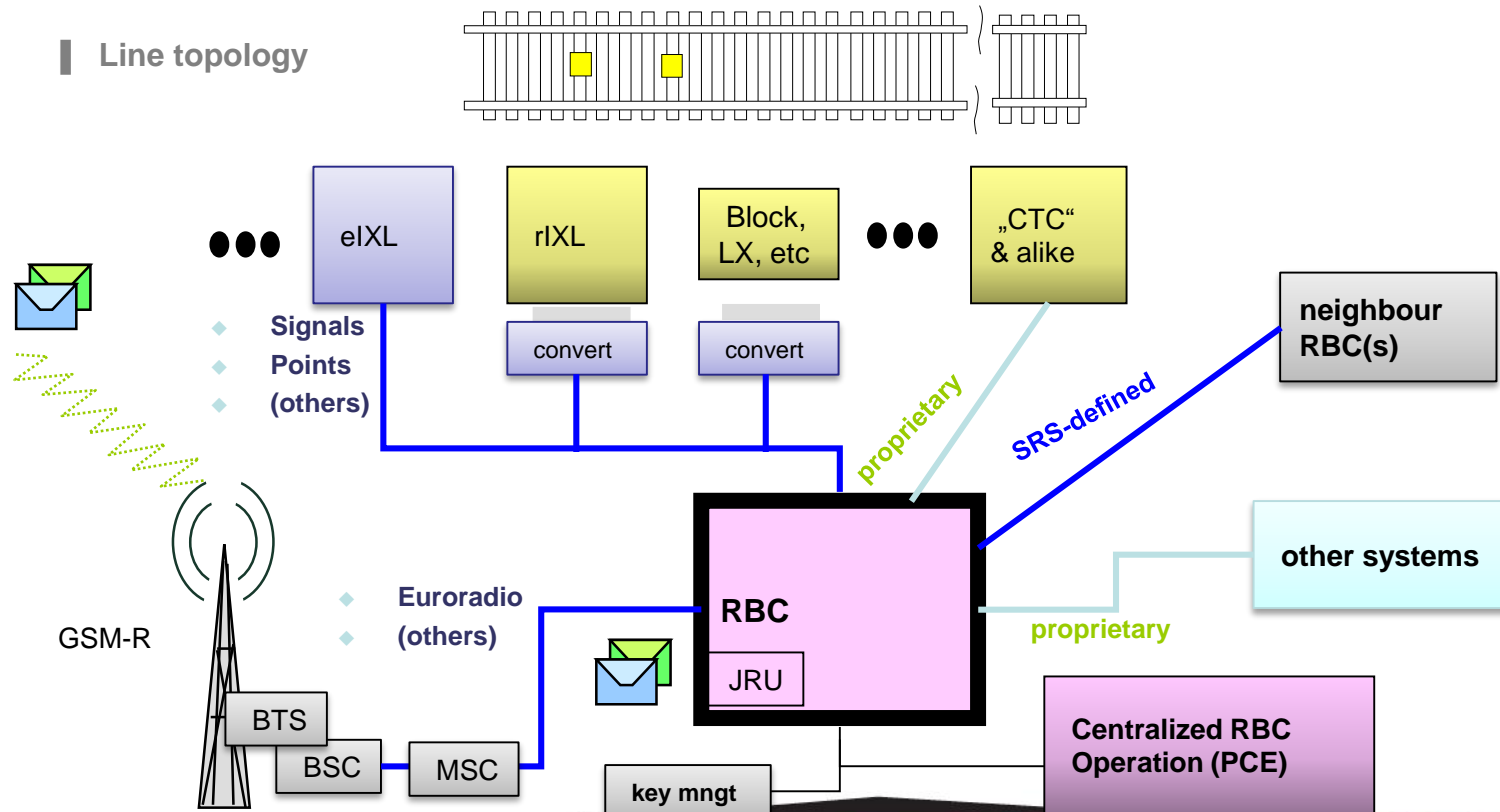
# ETCS L2 Architecture Overview



## ■ Track-Train Coms : 36 messages

- 20 track → train
- 16 train → track

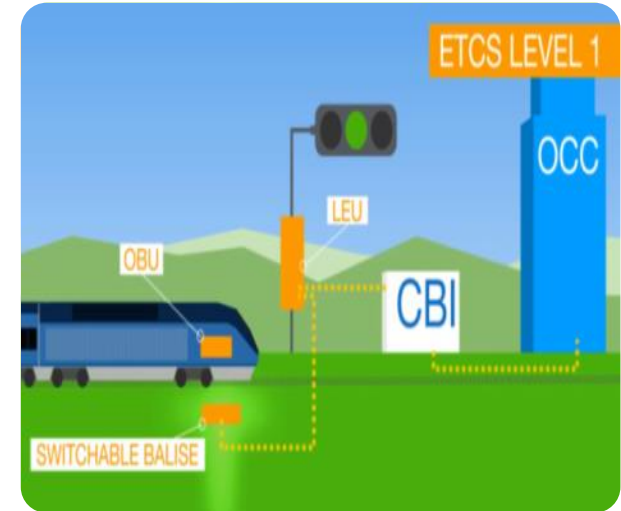
## ■ Line topology



# ETCS L1 & ETCS L2/L3

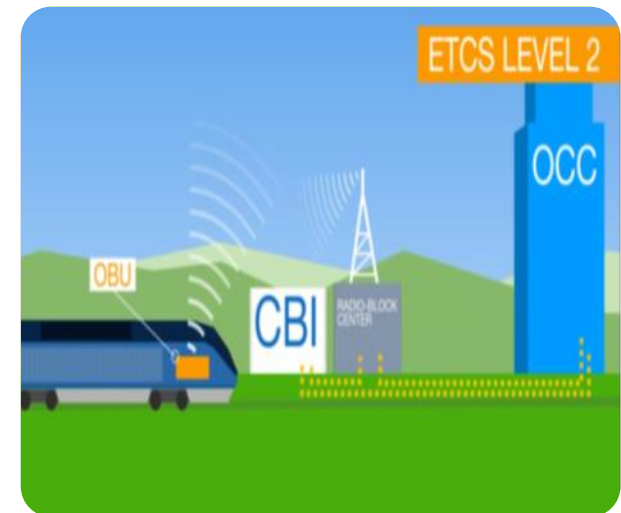
## ETCS Level 1 overlay

Point-shaped train control system with **spot transmission** from trackside to train:  
Communication between trains OBU and trackside equipment via balises.  
One way communication from ground to train.



## ETCS Level 2 & Level 3 integrated system

Continuous train control system with **continuous, bi-directional transmission** between trackside and train:  
Communications between trains OBU and trackside via GSM-R link.



### Legend

- > On-Board Unit (OBU)
- > Computer-Based Interlocking (CBI)
- > Operation Control Center (OCC)
- > Lineside Electronic Unit (LEU)
- > Radio-Block Center (RBC)



# North South Rail link in Saudi Arabia

The world's longest  
ETCS line





# ERTMS EXAMPLES & SYSTEM EVOLUTION

- ◆ Further develop the Kingdom by developing the non oil mineral capacities.
- ◆ Create:
  - A freight line linking phosphate and bauxite production plants in the northern part of the kingdom to industrial complex along the Arabian gulf.
  - Passenger services from Riyadh to the North of Saudi-Arabia.
- ◆ A turnkey solution based on advanced signalling and telecom technology.



# Case study

## North South Rail Link, Saudi Arabia

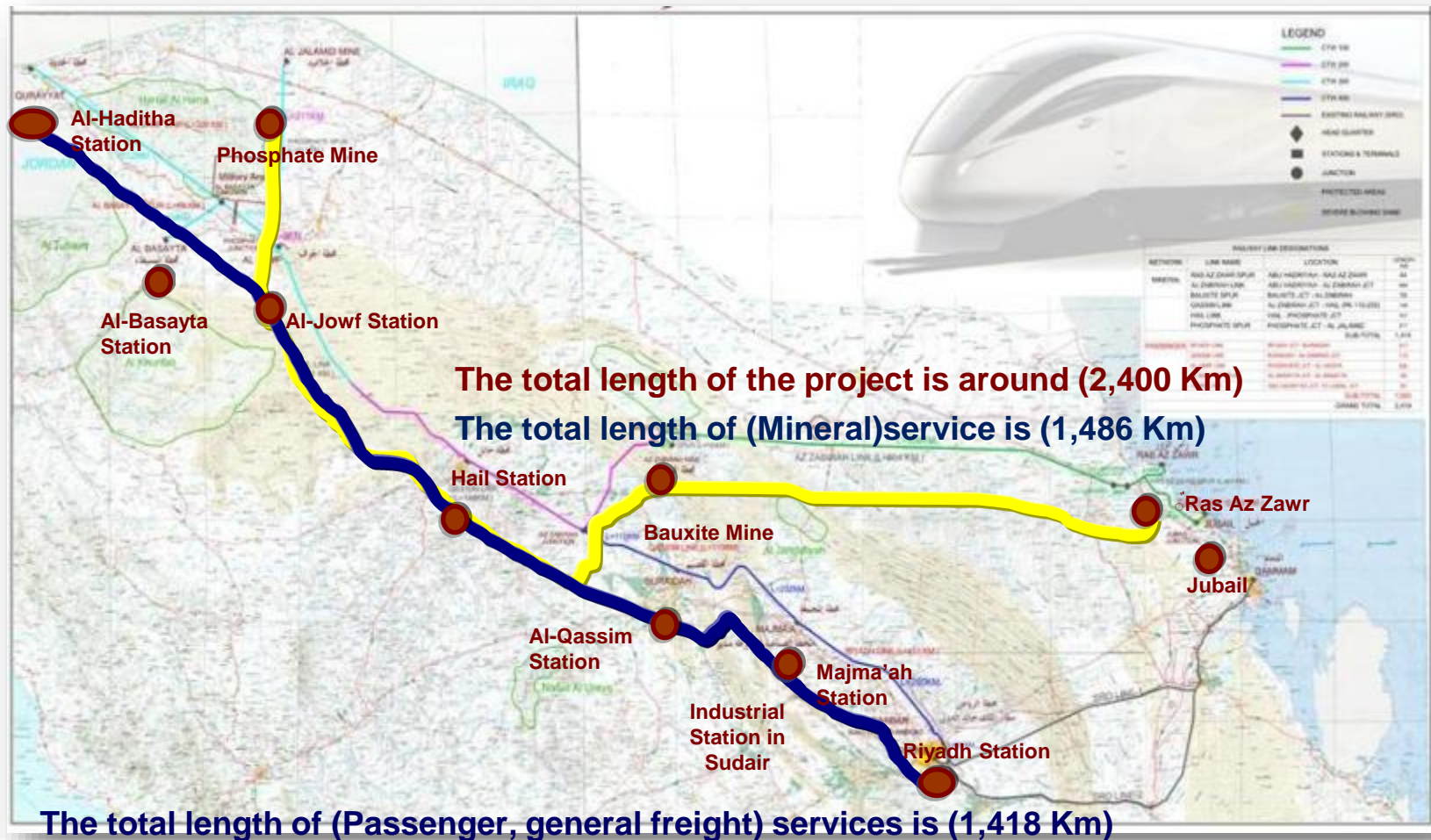
### North-South Rail link ID card

### Largest ETCS line in the world

- ◆ Total length 2,400 kilometres
- ◆ Phase 1: Mineral line
  - 1,400km whereof 400 km for passenger and freight traffic
  - 7 Mine and yards
  - 22 sidings and junctions
- ◆ Phase 2: Passenger line
  - 1,000km
  - 6 passenger stations
  - 14 yards, sidings and junctions
- ◆ An example of an interoperability
  - Thales trackside and integration
  - Alstom Onboard equipment
  - Nokia – radio system



### North South Rail link map

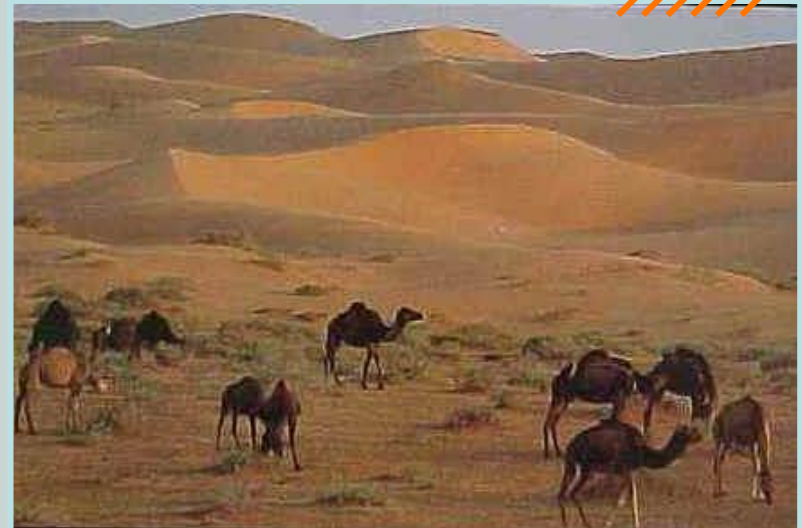




### Local challenges : environment / climate



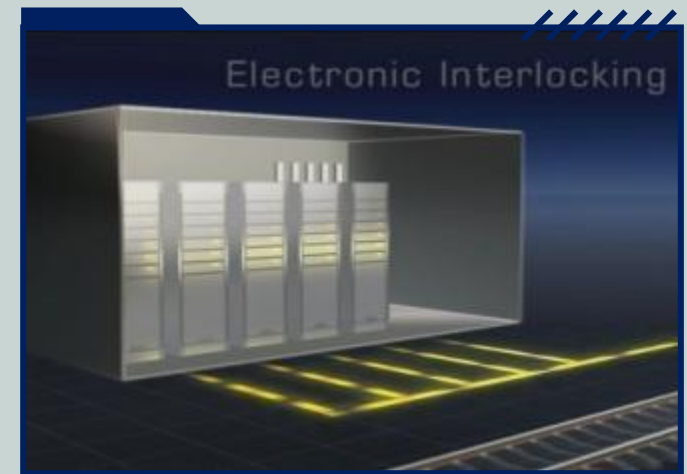
- ◆ Harsh, dry desert with great temperature extremes.
- ◆ Dirt, dust, high humidity & temperatures that affects the performance.



### Thales answer

**Turnkey solution : Signalling, Supervision and Communications, Security, Fare Management systems and associated services**

- ◆ **Signalling : ETCS L 2, Interlocking**, Axle Counters, Point Machines. Operation Control Centre, Rolling Stock Management,
- ◆ **CheckPoint**: CheckPoint Master Node, 65 CheckPoints including Dynamic Scales, Hot Box/Hot Wheel Detectors, Tag Readers, Derailment & Dragging equipment Detectors
- ◆ **Communications** : SDH transmission network, GSM-R, Passenger Information System, Video surveillance, Access control.
- ◆ **Additionally** : Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), uninterrupted power supply, Diesel generators.



### Customer benefits

- ◆ **Customer specific integrated solution : everything from a single source.**
- ◆ **State-of-the-art rail control systems : signalling, communications, supervision, security and fare collection systems.**
- ◆ **Products adapted to the specific local conditions : temperature, sand, etc.**
- ◆ **Full automatic rolling stock condition supervision**

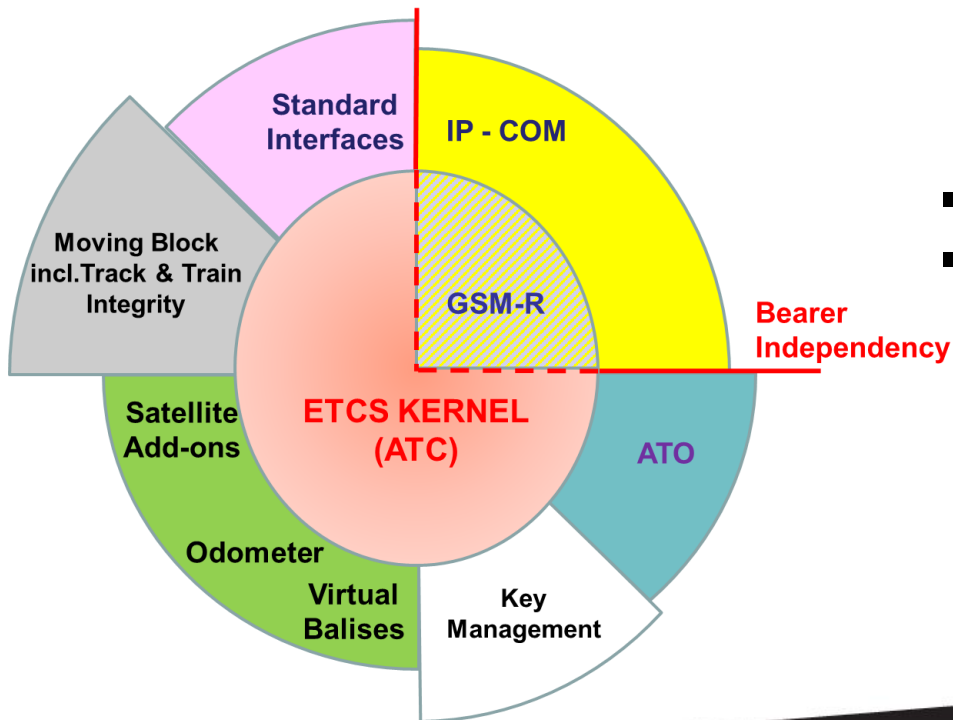


## ■ In Europe, GSM-R obsolescence expected in 2025

- Roadmap for future European standard to be prepared
- Backward compatibility is key to preserve investments made by Railways and Suppliers

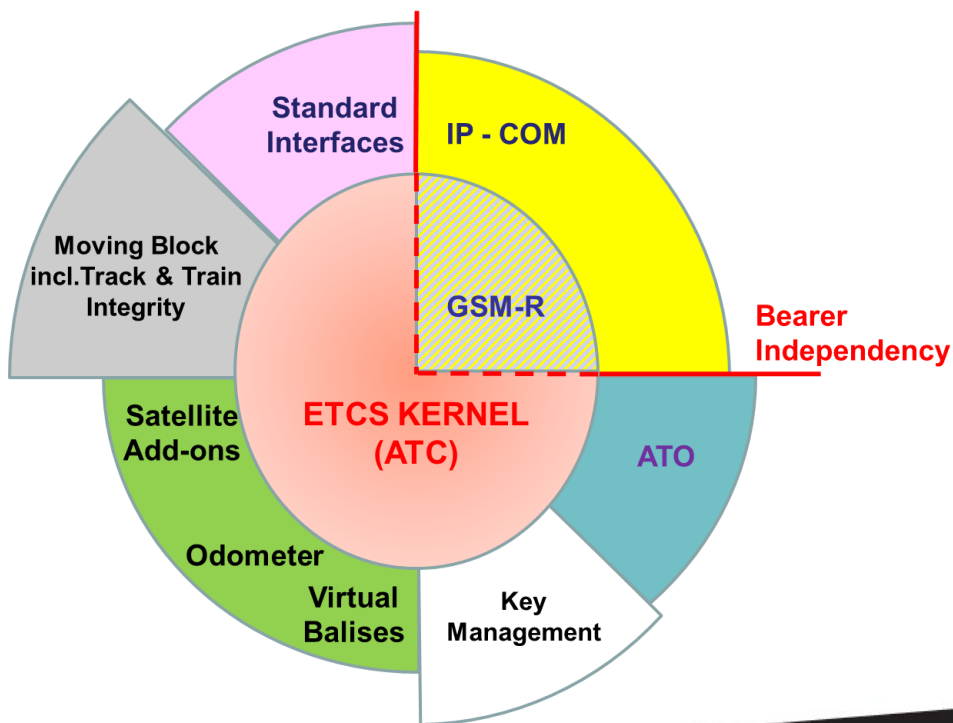
## ■ Outside Europe

- Some customers cannot use GSM-R to deploy ETCS Level 2
- Projects are already developed with ETCS and other communication standard, like Tetra (e.g. Kazakhstan) or 1800MHz GSM (Australia)
- A “**bearer independent**” ETCS is a priority
- Modern telecom standards are all “IP-based”. In the future, ERTMS shall be based on **IP communication principles**, while offering “**backwards**” compatibility





## ■ Functional enhancements



- Functions proven in other systems
- Need to be integrated into new Baseline for Interoperability
- Moving Block - Level 3
- ATO (Automatic Train Operation)
- GPS and satellite based positioning

# CONCLUSION

## ■ ERTMS was designed for **highest availability and safety**:

- High-end safety (SIL 4)
- Safe operator terminal
- CENELEC standards

## ■ ERTMS **protects investments** by:

- Easy integration in new or existing environments
- High scalability from small to large topologies
- Integration of leading edge technologies  
(Packet Switched Radio)
- Lower maintenance costs (standard equipment)
- Constant evolution (L3)

- **ERTMS increases capacity** through ETCS L1 or L2
- **Supports the seamless integration to all kinds of interlocking systems:**
  - existing or new infrastructure
  - other NRBC providers
- **Seamless integration and interoperability** with other suppliers
- **Compact RBC for all kinds of traffic:**
  - High Speed
  - Mainline
  - Urban
  - Freight



# Thank you for your attention

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