

# NEWS

## **Improvements in rail safety benefit the transport industry**

*Under the European Cooperation and Research 7th Framework Programme for transportation, the EC funded consortium known as SAFERAIL is addressing the safety areas for rail transport.*

The SAFERAIL consortium, coordinated by TWI, is in its third and final project year. The project partners are now introducing the trackside inspection prototypes to the project end user sites. On the 3rd of May 2011 the SAFERAIL consortium invited selected guests from the rail industry to see at first hand the recent developments of the consortium. This was followed by a site visit to Belem Train station on REFER's Cascais line, Lisbon. A live demonstration was given of the acoustic emission-based track side inspection system. Included guests were Mr António Mendonça, the Minister for Public Works, Transport and Communications (Portugal) and Transport secretary Correia da Fonseca.

The installed system collects acoustic emission data for each passing train. The first phase is to correlate this data with rolling stock maintenance manual inspections already taking place at EMEF. The second phase is to train the pattern recognition algorithms and then programme alerts for any anticipated faults/defect occurring in the rolling stock bogies and wheel sets.

The SAFERAIL Portugal demonstration was carried out thanks to the technical work conducted by consortium partners Feldman and EMEF Innovation and Birmingham University. Also contributions were made from REFER and REFER Telecom who supported the infrastructure access and data link. BRISA provided the radio frequency technology which the trackside system used to identify the passing rolling stock.

For more information please visit [www.saferail.net](http://www.saferail.net)

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