The European Railway Traffic Management System
ERTMS
ERTMS, European Railway Traffic Management System, is the new European, interoperable railway signalling system.

The ERTMS concept has been developed in 3 different levels of system architecture. Level 1 & level 2 of ERTMS are already implemented and in revenue service in most European countries and beyond, with Ansaldo STS being the first provider to introduce this technology to the highly competitive markets of China and India.

Interoperability enables a train equipped with ERTMS to travel without signal system boundaries within the ERTMS fitted infrastructure network, regardless of the country the train is travelling in, the legal nature of the infrastructure manager or the supplier providing the ERTMS system.

Ansaldo STS can offer the performance guarantee of a global leader in ERTMS components and systems for Conventional and High Speed lines worldwide. His experience builds upon our pioneering achievements in the most important Worldwide networks, including China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Libya, Spain, Turkey, U.A.E. and UK.

Ansaldo STS has also been responsible for the first lines in revenue service running solely on ERTMS level 2 without a fallback system: Rome-Naples, since 2006 and Turin-Novara, Milan- Bologna since 2008.

Ansaldo STS is pioneering the implementation of ERTMS (or ERTMS-based) Satellite Solutions, developing products and systems to be deployed in numerous projects in different Countries (e.g. Italy, Russia, Australia, etc.); moreover, Ansaldo STS has been one of the most active UNISIG members in defining the architecture and system specification to introduce satellite-based location technology (GPS, Galileo, GLONASS, etc.) within the ERTMS/ ETCS core, as it has been standardized in the latest decade.
ERTMS Level 1

ERTMS Level 1 is a Train Control System based on intermittent track-to-train communication using Eurobalises and optional advanced data infill.

Components and functions of the Wayside equipment:

**Eurobalise®**
- Energized by power from train antenna
- Fixed type: Stores infrastructure data as pre-formatted ‘telegrams’ (position reference, speed limits, line gradient, works on the line, etc.)
- Switchable type: sends to train movement authorities and trackside the telegrams received by LEU
- Class A reduced and standard sizes.

**Lineside Electronic Unit (LEU)**
- Captures movement authority information from interlocking or signal aspect
- Selects and sends telegrams to Eurobalise® that contain movement authorities and trackside data.

**Radio In-fill Unit (RIU)**
- Radio In-fill is a function that can be optionally added to ERTMS Level 1 in order to increase the performance of the line. The purpose of the Radio Infill Unit is to transmit the message corresponding to a Eurobalise® in advance to the train. In this way, a train approaching the application zone of a more restrictive condition can revoke braking as soon as the ‘signal clears’ without waiting to reach the balise itself. The infill message is transmitted via radio using GSM-R and Euroradio safety protocols, as used in ERTMS Level 2. The use of radio allows continuous infill coverage for data radio equipped trains on fitted sections between balises.

Main functions of On-Board equipment

- Receipt and analysis of the information about trackside status and characteristics of the movement authority sent by Eurobalise® or by the Radio Infill Unit
- Calculation of the dynamic speed profile in relation to the train characteristics which are already stored onboard
- Selection of the most restrictive speed value to be observed at the locations ahead
- Comparison between the train actual speed with the permitted speed and, if necessary, automatic brake application
- Display of indications and provision of alerts/warnings to the driver.

ERTMS Level 2

ERTMS Level 2 is a Train Control System based on continuous communication of variable data between the Radio Block Centre (RBC) and the trains, via a radio system. Some additional information is received on board via fixed balises.

The radio system chosen for European Railways is GSM-R in the 900 MHz frequency band. The radio coverage may be continuous or even selective depending on the rail traffic density to be supported.

The Radio Block Centre (RBC) supports open channel communication with up to 60 trains concurrently. The RBC knows from trains their positions: it receives train detection and route status information from the Interlocking and Automatic Block System as applicable, and makes information available to each train in the form of movement authorities.

Components and functions of Central and Wayside equipment

**Radio Block Centre (RBC)**
- Interface with local Interlockings to obtain signalling related information, like e.g. signal aspects, track occupations and route status, and (where supported) to provide instructions to the interlocking such as releasing approach-locking controls
- Management of movement authorities for all trains within the controlled area
- Storage, management and transmission of selected trackside data
- Encryption/decryption of messages exchanged with the trains
- Communication with any adjacent RBC, with ERTMS Control Center, etc.

**LEU**
- The LEU is not mandatory in an ERTMS level 2 environment, as variable data Eurobalises are generally not used
- **Eurobalise®**
- Energized by power from train antenna
- Stores infrastructure data as pre-formatted ‘telegrams’ (position reference, speed limits, line gradient, etc.)
- When energized, it sends to train telegrams containing its fixed information (there is no LEU connection), as variable data Eurobalises are generally not used.

Main functions of On-Board equipment

- Reception on-board from the RBC of data including movement authorities, information about the status and characteristics of the track ahead and the distance to the next balise. The train sends its position with respect to Eurobalises back to the RBC
- Calculation of the dynamic speed profile, in relation to the train characteristics which are known on-board
- Selection of the most restrictive speed value to be observed at the locations ahead
- Comparison between the train’s actual speed and the permitted speed with, if necessary, mandatory brake application
- Display of indications and provision of alerts/warnings to the driver
- Provision of ‘planning’ information to the driver about the route ahead enabling efficient driving.
Ansaldo STS wayside equipment

Lineside Encoder Unit (LEU)

The purpose of the LEU is to interface Eurobalises with lineside devices like Interlockings, Automatic Block logic and/or Signals, in order to acquire movement authority information and to convert this into conditioning messages to be sent to the appropriate balise group for retransmission to and subsequent processing by the onboard equipment. Ansaldo STS can supply both “Group LEUs” or “Signal LEUs”. Each “Group LEU” can drive up to 4 balises. Up to 8 such Group LEU can be housed in Eurorack cabinets close to the equipment with which they interface (e.g. Interlockings) to obtain relevant signalling information. The maximum distance between balise and LEU is 5 km.

“Signal LEUs” are intended to offer a cheaper and more flexible solution that can derive power supply from lamp signals (less than 6W are needed for the base configuration) to which they are directly interfaced.

Each “Signal LEU” – according to the different type of chosen configuration – can drive up to 8 outputs (Balises or LOOMOs) and manage up to 30 inputs (AC or DC, Voltage or Current); according to the desired IP level, it can be housed in different types of small cabinets (resin or metallic).

As regards the “Group LEUs”, direct connection is made to Ansaldo STS interlockings. Connection to modern third party interlocking systems is made with serial data links using either a safety protocol stack based on “Profibus” or an HDLC proprietary interface. Connection to relay interlockings is made through voltage free relay contacts. LEUs support remote diagnostic maintenance network connections.

“Signal LEUs” – since they are interfaced directly to signal lamps – do not need additional devices to obtain the needed signalling information.

Eurobalise®

Eurobalise®, developed by Ansaldo STS, is a certified Class A balise suitable for SIL 4 applications. The purpose of the Eurobalise® is to transmit data to the train OnBoard equipment. Within ERTMS Level 1 infrastructure, the data sent provides the complete information needed from the wayside for train movement to be safely supervised. The data to be sent is selected by the connected LEU so that the on-board system can calculate a safe speed profile and advise the driver and the relevant movement authority to the driver.

Within ERTMS Level 2 infrastructure the Eurobalise® normally provides fixed information about the local infrastructure and acts as a position reference, as the variable information is provided by the GSM-R Euradio data connection to the RBC. Balise data transmission takes place only when it is energized by the train passing over it. Energy transmission (telepowering) relies on magnetic coupling between the OnBoard antenna and a tuned loop within the balise. Both short and long telegrams are supported.

As well as application within ERTMS infrastructure, Eurobalises may be deployed within existing compatible national intermittent ATP systems: SCMT, RSDD, XVB, EBICAB. It also has applications in Radio Signalling and Mass Transit.

Ansaldo STS Product range includes the Reduced Size Eurobalise as well, which brings within a smaller shell (whose size and weight are about a half) the same core benefits and Characteristics of the above described Standard Size Eurobalise (in compliance with the relevant European specifications), namely:

• suitable for SIL 4 applications
• 1023- and 341-bit telegrams
• suitable for fixed- and variable-data transmission (through LEUs)
• suitable for both Railways and Metro applications
• compatible with the majority supports used in ERTMS and KER applications.

Moreover, Ansaldo STS Reduced Size Eurobalise features Air-gap programming (in addition to the standard “Interface C” Programming), thus allowing quicker telegrams downloading.

Radio Block Centre (RBC)

The RBC is the wayside system designed to control railway traffic in ERTMS Level 2 equipped territory. It acquires signalling-related information (e.g. block occupancy, route set information etc.) from associated interlocking equipment and provides movement authorities to trains within its controlled area.

The RBC consists of the following parts:
1) A redundant Vital safety management subsystem, based on proprietary 2-out-of-3 architecture and SIL 4 certified, supporting:
• Message encryption and decryption, according to EURORADIO specifications
• Movement Authority Management
• Human Machine Interface.

The RBC may be interfaced through the use of safety related protocols with both adjacent RBCs and Interlockings, with flexibility on the total number of interfaces.

The RBC can also be directly interfaced with traditional relay-based Interlockings. The RBC can even be interfaced directly with the field objects, and so it can perform some of the functionalities traditionally assigned to Interlockings.

The RBC is compliant to the most up-to-date UNISIG specification currently enforced by European laws (the so-called “Baseline 2.3.0 d”) and it is currently under upgrade towards the future Baseline 3.

2) A redundant Non Vital management subsystem based on commercial hardware architecture, including:
• Events recording and diagnostics, connected to the Maintenance Management System
• Remote supervision and/or CTC interface.
Ansaldo STS on-board equipment

The On Board system typically includes the following:

- **ERTMS Driver Machine Interface (DMI)** typically:
  - Radio interface software can manage 3 GSM-R data radio units (two in normal service to support RBC transitions and one for redundancy).
  - DMI – The ERTMS Driver Machine Interface typically comprises an LCD Screen panel for the control and indication functions, a voice synthesizer and configurable audible alert to inform the driver of changes to operating conditions and touch or soft keys to accept data input.
- **Radio Interface software** can manage 3 GSM-R data radio units (two in normal service to support RBC transitions and one for redundancy).
- **TIU – The Train Interface Unit typically comprises** interface relays and circuitry that are custom to each train class.
- **Odometry** - Typically providing redundant tachometry and radar based sensing of distance, speed and acceleration. Tachometry is normally fitted to axle end, while the radar has forward / downward facing views to track. Alternate arrangements can match specific vehicle design.
- **Balise Antenna** mounted under the vehicle with a clear view downwards to the track.
- **GSM-R - data radio - a minimum of two and normally three radio sets are used per EVC with antenna typically roof mounted near to vehicle ends to support best reception in tunnels**.
- **JRU - The Juridical Recorder Unit providing ‘black box’ Functions.**

**ERTMS Benefits**

- **Interoperability for international traffic:**
  - Stops at country borders for loco, crew and traction change can be minimized / nullified
  - customers benefit from shorter and more reliable journey transit times.
- **Interoperability within individual countries:**
  - legacy limited capability and mutually incompatible train control systems can be phased out
  - wayside equipment can be reduced
  - advantage can be taken from a more competitive supply market.
- **Communication-based train control provided by ERTMS** means that train movement decisions reflect the most current applicable conditions including track occupancy and train speed, and giving the benefits of:
  - Increase in railway capacity - more traffic, thus more efficiency and profitability
  - Increase in service performance (better adherence to schedule).
- **Cab signalling represents:**
  - A higher level of safety which is achieved, thus easing drivers’ tasks and enforcing speed limits
  - Track layout design is no longer inhibited by viewing requirements for wayside optical signals–more efficient and flexible movement arrangements can be supported
  - Train service is less prone to disruption by weather conditions (fog etc).
- **System standardization offers the benefits of:**
  - Lower operating expenses
  - Better protection against premature obsolescence.

ERTMS means that train movement decisions reflect the most current applicable conditions including track occupancy and train speed, and giving the benefits of:

- ERTMS provision on six key freight corridors:

  - Aachen-Berlin-Warsaw–Terespol
  - Dresden-Prague-Bucharest-Constanta
  - Valencia-Lyon-Turin-Ljubljana-Budapest
  - Antwerp - Basel / Lyon
  - Naples-Stockholm
  - Rotterdam-Genoa

The outcome was a positive endorsement of ERTMS with European funding now available to help finance ERTMS application to over 10,000 km of track and thousands of rail vehicles all over Europe.
About Ansaldo STS

Pioneering some of the first High Speed Lines in commercial service running solely on an ERTMS Level 2 system (Rome - Naples in 2005 and Turin - Novara in 2006), Ansaldo STS has ever since been leader in ERTMS, the European interoperable railway signalling system.

Introducing its benefits all over Europe and beyond, with countries like China, India, South Korea and Turkey already embracing the most advanced signalling system, Ansaldo STS is also providing ERTMS for cross-border links between France and Spain (Figueres - Perpignan) and between France and Germany (Paris - Strasbourg – Frankfurt corridor, including Saarbrücken - Mannheim), linking some of the most important European High Speed networks with a reliable ERTMS Level 2 fully interoperable connection.

Ansaldo STS has thousands of kilometers of ERTMS lines in operation. It also has experience in superposing ERTMS levels 1 & 2 (as on the Madrid - Lleida High Speed line). Many more kilometers are under construction and a substantial fleet of vehicles has been equipped with our ERTMS solutions. Only a leading company like Ansaldo STS can display such diverse references for implementing and adapting ERTMS to local requirements with satisfied clients all around the world.