The future of rail is intelligent. Data collection and exchange are key.

The next generation of rail systems requires seamless information flow. The data exchange calls for tedious manual work for smart railway systems, wasting resources and introducing errors. ISO/TS 4398 presents a common format, enabling a smooth data flow during railway service planning.

From their inception, railway networks have been designed and run according to the needs of their users. It is common for rail service operators to adapt these services on a seasonal or annual basis, increasing the frequency of popular services in summer or reducing commuter services when engineering work is scheduled at the weekend.

But the world is moving towards increasingly dynamic transport systems, which respond and adapt to changing needs, eventually in real-time. To unlock this capability – and to optimise the organisation of rail services – it is necessary to ensure that different transport systems can communicate.

A common language for railway operators

ISO/TS 4398 aims to facilitate rail operations planning between all the different groups by providing a common format for railway data exchange. It is intended for railway and transportation authorities, infrastructure managers, and train operators at every stage of railway service planning. It leads to an annual timetable: conceptual, strategic, and tactical.
Railway Data Exchange (or “RailDax”) is an open, XML-based data format designed for efficient, unambiguous data exchange. It will allow train timetables to be reproduced in different software systems, permitting much faster, less error-prone calculations.

The ambition is that implementing ISO/TS 4398 will facilitate common planning of railway operations between different organisations: a small but critical step towards truly intelligent transport systems.

**The world is moving towards increasingly dynamic transport systems.**

ISO/TS 4398 aims to facilitate the planning of rail operations.