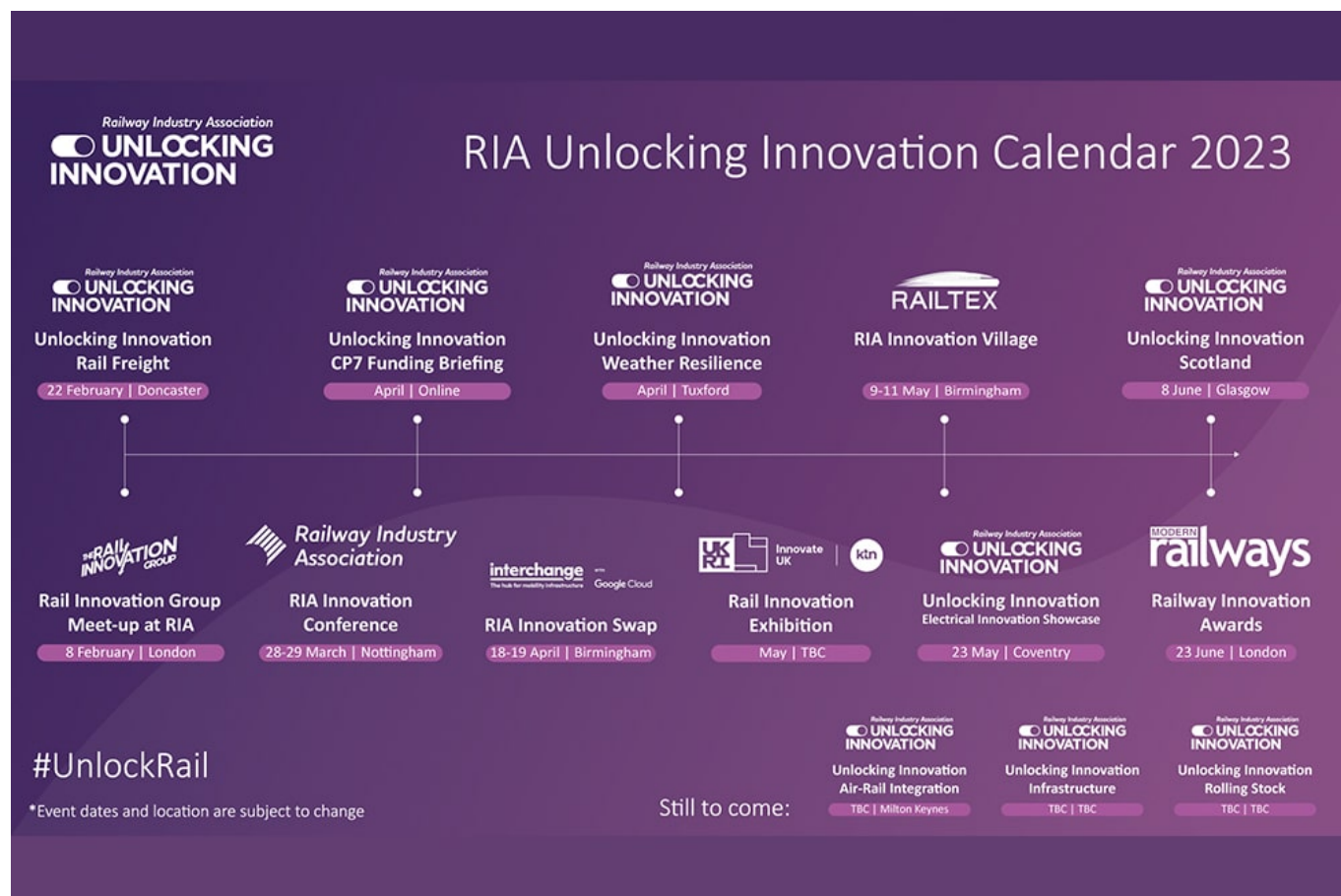


RIA launches Unlocking Innovation 2023 programme

January 25, 2023



The Railway Industry Association (RIA), the voice of the UK rail supply community, has launched Unlocking Innovation 2023, with a packed programme including a range of topical events and activities set to take place throughout the year.

The programme is supported by Network Rail's R&D Portfolio and the UK Rail Research & Innovation Network (UKRRIN), of which RIA is a founding member. It will kick off with an Unlocking Innovation – Rail Freight event, taking place in Doncaster on 22 February.

Central to its rail innovation programme, the award-winning RIA Innovation Conference (RIC) returns to Nottingham on 28-29 March, with the theme "Delivering the Benefits of Innovation". The conference will include a range of new features, such as 'Exhibitor Spotlight' and 'Student Challenge' sessions. RIA will also launch the third Innovation Perception Survey in early 2023, which will give a better understanding of the state of play when it comes to railway innovation – the results of this will be shared at the RIC.

The 2023 Unlocking Innovation programme will see RIA once again partnering with leading industry organisations to promote the innovation agenda. To help navigate the programme, RIA has produced the

handy graphic below, highlighting the networking opportunities at both RIA's events and those of its partners too.

RIA will also launch a 'Data & Digital Capabilities for Rail' report later this year, looking at gaps in railway policy around data and digital, and opportunities for the supply chain, and it will establish RIA lobbying 'asks' in this area.

Milda Manomaityte, RIA Innovation Director, said: "2023 is going to be a significant year for UK rail, with travel and freight movements continuing to recover strongly since the pandemic, the industry preparing for the Control Period 7 (CP7), and Rail Reform looming.

"With such a busy backdrop, we must not lose sight of the importance of innovation, and this year we have designed a programme that will highlight the benefits of continuous investment in research, development and innovation.

"We would like to invite all innovators, whether they already work with railway clients or are considering exploring the potential of rail, to engage with RIA's Unlocking Innovation programme. And we look forward to working with them closely in the weeks and months ahead."

Photo credit: Railway Industry Association