Rail Data Marketplace

Welcome to your round up of news related to the Rail Data Marketplace (RDM). If at any time you wish to unsubscribe, email us at raildatamarketplace@raildeliverygroup.com.

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Programme update

The programme is progressing well and remains on track for a launch later this year. You will be aware that we published our platform provider tender in December and had 12 really credible responses. It feels harsh to down-select in these circumstances, but we have shortlisted 5 bidders who we will be taking forward to the second round. We aim to conclude the procurement by the end of April.

Our other significant upcoming piece of work is developing the commercial model for the Rail Data Marketplace. We are currently talking to as many people as we can about the options, and if you would like to contribute or have views on the topic, please get in touch with us. We would love to hear from you.

We continue to work on how we might implement data licensing, creating a consistent taxonomy / tagging structure, as well as how to describe data quality. We intend to share more on all of these topics in the coming months.

This month we also agreed with the Government Digital Service that the RDM won't need to have the look and feel of a Government service. However, the RDM will still follow best practice service standards, and we will be taking a GDS assessment on the 21st February. Wish us luck!

In the meantime, we hope that a little myth-busting might prove useful.

Myth busting

Work on the Rail Data Marketplace is now gathering pace and generating discussions and views from a wide variety of stakeholders. We've been hearing frequent questions in our chats, so this month we thought that we would focus on a little myth busting. Hopefully by talking about our ideas both of what RDM is and what it is not and giving you the opportunity to comment, we will get to a common understanding of what the industry needs.

MYTH: RDM is a data lake; a data storage and hosting platform for the rail industry

RDM does not plan to host data. It is a resource for discovering and accessing a broad range of rail data sources held by different data publishers. The ambition is for RDM to be an online

focal point and content resource for all things rail data related, attracting a broad range of data consumers and innovators.

MYTH: RDM will purchase data

RDM will not purchase data, rather publishers who own data can make it available via the platform for consumers and may choose to charge for access to their data.

MYTH: RDM will manipulate data and repackage to retail or make available as open data

RDM does not plan to manipulate or aggregate data (although other teams in RDG do some of this on behalf of members and the industry). Using the RDM, both consumers and publishers can undertake data aggregation and manipulation subject to the Licensor (Publishers) Licensing arrangements and subsequently use that data themselves or potentially make it available, either charged or 'open data'.

MYTH: All data is chargeable

The RDM seeks to achieve a balance of open and free datasets alongside chargeable commercial datasets to encourage and drive innovation. The RDM aims to be cost-neutral (ie generating sufficient income to cover the costs of delivery) and we are currently trying to understand a fair mechanism to do that which supports the aims of RDM.

MYTH: Only API publishing methods will be available?

APIs are a useful, resilient and future-proofed way of making data available and will be the preferred method of publishing, however other methods including flat files and publish/subscribe models will be available.

MYTH: RDM will set the price for commercial data?

We are still working out how charging for data might work, but currently we see the publisher setting the price for data they make available (which could be £0) and RDM will facilitate the invoicing and reconciliation on behalf of the publisher.

MYTH: RDM will assure data quality

RDM will not be responsible for data quality or correcting inaccuracies in data sets, but will work with data publishers to promote both of these principles. We will ask publishers to give details about the quality of their data (using consistent data quality dimensions) so that consumers can make informed decisions about its use. There will also be an ability for consumers to provide feedback to create a virtuous loop, so that data sources can be improved over time.

MYTH: RDM will control licensing and access to data

The effort involved in agreeing a license agreement was one area where we had a lot of feedback from both publishers and consumers and our aim is for licensing to be 'friction-free' and not to be a deterrent to consuming the data. RDM will facilitate licensing and access

through the platform; publishers will specify the licence conditions and access for each of their data sets and RDM will provide off the shelf licence agreements for the publishers to use. The aim is to make licencing low cost and simple whilst ensuring that the agreements are contractually robust for all conditions.

If you want to feedback to us or provide input on any of the above ideas, then please get in touch via our email address:

raildatamarketplace@raildeliverygroup.com

Mobility as a Service: Code of Practice consultation

And finally…The Department for Transport are seeking views on the content that could be included in a mobility as a service (MaaS) code of practice.

They are proposing that a MaaS code of practice could be used to:

•   provide guidelines for new entrants to the market and incumbent MaaS platform providers to aid navigation around the relevant legislation

•   support new businesses in the MaaS industry to make decisions in line with government goals

•   encourage MaaS platform providers to include carbon data for each route offered, helping consumers choose lower carbon journeys

•   provide best practice examples of MaaS solutions

•   assist local authorities in developing or considering MaaS platforms to operate in their areas, developing local solutions that build on nationally agreed standards

To respond, please use the following link: https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/K1W5FP/

Rail Data Marketplace Delivery Team
E: RailDataMarketplace@raildeliverygroup.com
www.raildeliverygroup.com
2nd Floor, 200 Aldersgate Street, London EC1A 4HD