

Rail Delivery Group



July 2023

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 Summary

It was great that Rail Data Marketplace was shortlisted for the Innovation category at the RIA Rail Industry Supplier Excellence awards which took place on 29th June. In what was described as a ‘hotly contested’ category, we did not win, however we certainly could not begrudge Revolution Very Light Rail ([Revolution VLR - About | About the innovative VLR project](#)) for their award. Their use of composite materials, unique propulsion systems, line extensions and the re-opening of dormant lines looks to be an outstanding idea for creating a sustainable and customer-centric rail service. Amongst some superb shortlisted entries, the award showcased the varied innovation being implemented right across the industry. It is encouraging for the future of the industry as a whole and great to be considered in such company.

Rail Data Marketplace continues to move forward with nearly 50 registered users. Those users include TOCs and FOCs, as well as major industry players, data aggregators, Government and public bodies and even the Ordnance Survey. If you want to get an idea of what those early users are benefiting from and what RDM looks like, I would recommend the short video which we have posted on our webpage [HERE](#).

Inevitably, it is not all rosy, and my prediction in the last newsletter that we would be able to publish files (CF, CSV, xls, XML, docx, pdf, zip) by June was optimistic. Avoiding the old project joke along the lines ‘ah, but I didn’t say which June!’, we will just say that we had ‘technical challenges’. We are overcoming those now, so I am optimistic (again!) that we will release the functionality in July. This will open up more rail data to the platform.

In addition, we have added technical functionality to allow APIs that use multiple headers for authentication, multiple parameters in the specification tab, and mutual TLS as an additional security layer.

We have also been working toward a ‘minimum viable product’ for invoicing which we hope will give publishers a way to monetise their data from August. The ability to allow publishers to sell their data has been a core requirement of RDM from the start, and whilst our MVP will have limitations, it will be good to be able to offer that. If you might want to want to monetise your data, please get in touch and we can talk through what we will and won’t be able to do in the short term.

An area of development for us over the summer is the ‘community’ element of the RDM and we are currently designing that and trying to think through how it might work effectively (which includes avoiding lawsuits!). Community will support both forum discussions, but also industry challenges, data wants and enable collaboration between users. If anyone has strong feelings on this and would like to contribute to the debate and comment upon our prototype design, it would be great to hear from you.

Service Management

The team, in conjunction with our suppliers, have been working on the support and service management elements of the RDM platform. We are in the final stages of testing the integration between our data sharing platform and the service desk / service management platform. This means that users will be able to log and track incidents within RDM, receive notifications and see updates. Our Service Manager and service desk suppliers, Nasstar, will triage incidents, ensure that they are passed to the correct resolving group and that issues are being progressed swiftly.

There is already an ability to ‘self-help’, both through extensive guides, FAQs as well as functionality like ‘reset password’. We also already have monitoring and alerting set up on the RDM platform, so for significant problems, we should know before users do. This will all be available in the next few weeks.

...and finally, have your say.

For those that have not spotted it, the House of Commons Transport Committee is asking for submissions on the future of transport data. This follows on from the recent publication of the Transport Data Strategy and ‘calls for evidence’ on the topic (the HoC term for ‘have your say’). [Future of transport data - Committees - UK Parliament](#) Submissions against a number of questions posed by the Committee are due by 25th August. Don’t forget to mention the Rail Data Marketplace!