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### **CATAPULT WILL DELIVER BENEFITS, SAYS RIA**

The Railway Industry Association welcomes the announcement by the Technology Strategy Board that a Transport Systems Catapult innovation centre is to be established. RIA has been a strong advocate of the need for such a centre, which will bring together industry expertise to support the development of transport systems technologies spanning the rail, road and marine sectors.

Francis How, RIA's Technical Director, said: "We have been working for over a year with colleagues in RSSB, Network Rail and ATOC to develop the concepts for a Catapult centre. It is immensely rewarding to see that the Technology Strategy Board supports the arguments that we and colleagues in the road and marine sectors have advocated.

"The Catapult centre has the potential to deliver considerable benefit for the supply industry in this country by facilitating the development of advanced technology applications for transport systems both in the UK and internationally", Francis continued. "The expected focus of the Catapult centre on "intelligent mobility" applications is particularly welcome, and will help to position the UK as a technology leader in this field, supporting economic growth as well as enabling better end-to-end journeys for users of transport systems around the world."

Ends

#### Notes to Editors

1. The Railway Industry Association (RIA) represents UK-based suppliers to the railway industry. Its 160+ member companies include manufacturers, maintainers, contractors, consultants and providers of specialist services.

For further information about RIA, visit our website at [www.riagb.org.uk](http://www.riagb.org.uk) or contact Graham Coombs, Director, Communications: Tel: +44 (0)20 7201 0777;

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2. For details of the announcement, see: <http://www.innovateuk.org/content/press-release/next-catapult-centres-to-focus-on-future-cities-an.ashx>