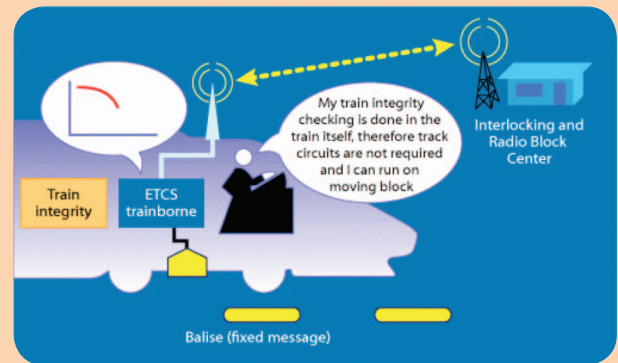


What will be the features of ERTMS Level 3?

ERTMS Level 3, still in its conceptual phase, introduces a “moving block” technology. Under ERTMS level 1 and 2, movement authorities are determined using “fixed blocks” - section of tracks between two fixed points which cannot be used by two trains at the same time. With ERTMS level 3, accurate and continuous position data is supplied to the control centre directly by the train, rather than by track based detection equipment. As the train continuously monitors its own position, there is no need for “fixed blocks” – rather the train itself will be considered as a moving block.



Is it possible to upgrade from one level to the other?

Yes – ERTMS allows for a smooth migration from one level to the other. For instance, upgrading level 1 to level 2 mainly necessitates the installation of the radio network, the Radio Block Centre and some additional balises for positioning.

Introducing Level 3 will enable the train to monitor and report its own integrity thus releasing the need for track detection circuitry e.g. axle counters and/or track circuits.

Why should I opt for one ERTMS level or another?

ERTMS has been designed to meet the railways' needs and this is reflected by the different levels available. The existence of another signalling system on the line, the possibilities to equip the line with GSM-R technology, the maximum speed allowed or capacity upgrades, are amongst the factors which come into play when choosing a particular ERTMS Level. However, it is commonly acknowledged that ERTMS Level 2 brings the full benefit of the system to a reality, as it allows for increased capacity and significant costs savings for maintenance through the removal of lineside signals.

What is the difference between ERTMS “levels” and ERTMS “baselines”?

ERTMS “baselines” (or System Requirements Specifications – SRS) designate the technical baseline of the ERTMS software – the current legal versions are known as “2.3.0d” for Baseline 2, 3.4.0 and the recently adopted 3.6.0 (which entered into force on 05 July 2016) for Baseline 3. All currently operating levels are defined in each version of the SRS.

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