



CALL FOR PAPERS

DEADLINE

June 30, 2003



NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
TRANSPORTATION CENTER

**First Conference on
RAILROAD INDUSTRY STRUCTURE, COMPETITION and INVESTMENT
Toulouse, November 7-8, 2003**

We invite you to submit a paper proposal for, or express your interest in attending, the First Conference on the Economics and Politics of Rail Competition in Toulouse on November 7-8, 2003. The Conference is jointly organized by Institut D'Economie Industrielle (IDEI) and The Transportation Center at Northwestern University, and hosted at University of Toulouse. It will provide a forum for international researchers and professional economists to present and discuss the current theoretical and empirical research on this changing industry and to address policy and institutional issues.

This First Conference in Europe will focus on passenger rail. A Second Conference planned at Northwestern University next year will emphasize rail freight. The conference this year will address the following topics:

- (i) Intramodal competition in the passenger rail industry;
- (ii) The efficient structure of the rail industry;
- (iii) Competition between air, rail and road;
- (iv) Rail investment incentives and access pricing;
- (v) The political economy of passenger rail.

Papers will be selected by a Scientific Committee that includes, in addition to the local organizers: Ronald Braeutigam (Northwestern), Robert Gallamore (Northwestern), Christian Kirchner (Humboldt), Gerard McCullough (Minnesota), Chris Nash (Leeds), David Newbery (Cambridge), John Panzar (Northwestern), Emile Quinet (CERAS), Werner Rothengatter (Karlsruhe) and Jean Tirole (IDEI).

For speakers, accommodation will be provided and travel expenses will be covered on the basis of Apex fares. Non-speakers will be asked to contribute a registration fee of 250 Euros (which does not cover accommodation and travel expenses). Since it may not be possible to accept all applications to attend, we encourage you to simply confirm your interest at this stage and indicate whether or not you wish to present a paper.

Please do this by completing the enclosed reply form and return this to Sylvie Mercusot at IDEI by email at eprc2003@cict.fr or by fax on +33 5 61 12 86 37. If you would like to submit a paper, please include an abstract with your reply form. All applications must reach Madame Mercusot by the 30th of June. (On-line pre-registration will be available from May 12 on www.idei.asso.fr.) The programme and list of participants will be confirmed in early September 2003.

Yours sincerely,

The organizers, Guido Friebel, Marc Ivaldi and Paul Seabright.