

## **FAQs for Railway Interchange (20-22 May 2025 @ the Indiana Convention Centre)**

**Please note: every effort has been made to fact-check these answers but**

**‘E&OE’ (Errors and Omissions Excepted) applies - this version is dated: 07 Feb 2025**

### **Introduction:**

These FAQs are designed to provide general information about the event itself as well as specific information about the ERCI side-programme for ERCI members who are exhibiting at Railway Interchange or those visiting the show as a delegate. As the most recent information/update relates to the ERCI Side Programme during Railway Interchange, we start with this first ...

### **Railway Interchange 2025 – ERCI Side Programme**

#### **What is the purpose of the ERCI Side-Programme?**

The ERCI side-programme is designed to provide a mixture of information briefings that will provide knowledge exchange as well as offering networking opportunities

#### **When is the programme – days, times etc?**

The side-programme takes place during the afternoons of Tuesday (20 May) and Wednesday (21 May); each session will start from 1300hrs onwards and will have a number of 30-minute or 60-minute sessions (depending on the presentation topic).

#### **Where will the presentations take place?**

ERCI has booked a presentation room within the Indiana Convention Centre. Closer to the event, once the organisers have confirmed the location of this space, we will pass on this information to participants.

#### **Where can I find the timetable of events?**

Once we have confirmation that you are participating in the programme, we will send the most accurate version of the programme to you and this will be updated as more presentations come on stream.

## **FAQs for Railway Interchange (20-22 May 2025 @ the Indiana Convention Centre)**

### **Are there any other activities outside of this afternoon programme?**

Yes – we are in the process of planning informal dinners during the evening of Tuesday (20 May and Wednesday (21 May) – hopefully at either or both of these restaurants (both of which we have visited during our previous visit to Railway Interchange in 2023):

- Weber Grill Restaurant
  - o - <https://webergrillrestaurant.com/indianapolis/>
- Hyde Park Prime Steakhouse
  - o <https://www.hydeparkrestaurants.com/location/indianapolis/>

### **Who will be presenting on the programme?**

At the moment we have confirmed speakers from:

- Momentum Rail (MxV) who perform testing, trialling, proving of products as well as being a repository for the standards and regulatory aspects [www.mxvrail.com](http://www.mxvrail.com)
- Norfolk Southern Corporation who are one of the six Class1 railroads in the US, they are based in Atlanta, Florida [www.norfolksouthern.com](http://www.norfolksouthern.com)
- Railway Engineering-Maintenance Supply Association Inc (REMSA), one of the 3 main trade associations for the US Railroad sector/industry [www.remsa.org](http://www.remsa.org)

We have requested speakers from the following organisations:

- Railway Systems Supplier Institute (RSSI)
- Federal Rail Authority (FRA)
- AMTRAK (for passenger rail)
- American Short Line & Regional Rail Association (ASRRRLA) for Class 2/3 railways
- Other Class 1 and international (US-Canada-Mexico) Railway companies
- European railway supplier(s) who have broken into the US Rail Supply Chain
- Other related organisations and expert bodies

### **What else is happening?**

We can also provide ‘signposting’ opportunities to identify areas of special interest within the exhibition halls, thereby saving time and energy

***General Information for Railway Interchange 2025 follows ...***

## **Railway Interchange 2025 – General Information**

### **When is it, where is it?**

The event takes place in the Indiana Convention Centre in the city of Indianapolis over the period 20-22 May 2025. Indiana is known as the ‘crossroads of America’ where rivers, roads and rail systems meet/cross; Indianapolis is its state capital.

### **What is it?**

Railway Interchange is the largest railway exhibition and educational conference in North America, bringing together over 5,000 global rail professionals from all segments of the railroad industry.

### **Who are the organisers?**

The event showcases the latest technology, services and research by members of the Railway Engineering-Maintenance Suppliers Association (REMSA), the Railway Supply Institute (RSI) and the Railway Systems Suppliers, Inc. (RSSI). Websites for the three trade associations can be found here: REMSA ([www.remsa.org](http://www.remsa.org)), RSI ([www.rsiweb.org](http://www.rsiweb.org)) or the RSSI ([www.rssi.org](http://www.rssi.org)).

### **How can I find out more about this exhibition?**

The website for the exhibition can be difficult to find ... putting ‘Railway Interchange USA’ into a search engine tends to result in identifying the three US rail trade associations that run the event (see FAQ directly above), or the various media companies that promote/advertise it. That said, the event website can be found here: [www.railwayinterchange.org](http://www.railwayinterchange.org).

### **Is there a promotional video for this event?**

Yes – visit: <https://vimeo.com/1045772835>

### **Is there a prospectus for the event?**

## **FAQs for Railway Interchange (20-22 May 2025 @ the Indiana Convention Centre)**

Yes there is – please visit: [https://railwayinterchange.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/RailwayInterchange\\_2025\\_ExhibitorProspectus.pdf](https://railwayinterchange.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/RailwayInterchange_2025_ExhibitorProspectus.pdf)

### **Can I see the floorplan?**

Yes – visit: [https://railwayinterchange2025.mapyourshow.com/8\\_0/exhview/index.cfm](https://railwayinterchange2025.mapyourshow.com/8_0/exhview/index.cfm)  
this web link will update as changes are made.

### **Who is attending?**

See here who's attending:

[https://railwayinterchange2025.mapyourshow.com/8\\_0/explore/exhibitor-gallery.cfm?featured=false](https://railwayinterchange2025.mapyourshow.com/8_0/explore/exhibitor-gallery.cfm?featured=false) as above, this link will update as changes are made.

### **Can I see the Exhibitor Directory?**

Yes – to see a list of exhibitors (as at 1 December 2024) visit:

<https://railwayinterchange.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Railway-Interchange-Exhibitor-List-as-of-12.1.24.pdf>

### **How do I get there?**

It is very unlikely that there will be any direct flights from European destinations to Indianapolis International so, once landed in the US you will need a connecting flight to Indianapolis International Airport. The Indiana Convention Centre (ICC) is situated in the city centre and the airport is to the south-west of the city centre, but is close by. The driving time from the airport to the ICC is about 15 minutes and to the centre of Indianapolis in about 20 minutes. For local transportation information visit: <https://www.icclos.com/attendees/transportation/>.

### **Where can I stay?**

There are plenty of hotels in the City Centre near to the Indiana Convention Centre; however, those in the City Centre can be expensive (>250 Euro/night) or already showing 'no vacancies'. That said, searching for accommodation just 1-2 km out from the city centre can identify more reasonable alternatives at (>150 Euro/night).

Additionally, there is a room block-booking system (shared by/between the three trade associations) and these rooms are within hotels that are close to the exhibition hall. They are currently showing (as at 7 Feb 25) average prices of approximately 250-260 Euro/night. For more information on this offer, please visit:

## **FAQs for Railway Interchange (20-22 May 2025 @ the Indiana Convention Centre)**

<https://railwayinterchange.org/hotel-accommodations/>. If you do book accommodation using this route, please note and be aware of the cancellation charges.

### **What if I just want to attend the exhibition as a visitor (if you are NOT exhibiting)**

It is not a 'free-to-attend' exhibition unless you are a railroad employee or a government official or a student ... and have the ID to prove it.

We are still seeking confirmation about *international* 'railroad' employees – at the moment the clarity we have is: if, for example, you work directly for DB, SNCF or a franchise operator, then that should be generally acceptable. However, if you are a Tier 3 or 4 supplier further down the supply chain, or work for a transport consultancy providing general or specific consultancy, it may/will be more difficult to claim that you are a 'railroad employee'.

### **So ... what if I am a 'government' employee or a 'student'**

From looking at <https://railwayinterchange.org/register/> it appears that the entry badge for the 'exhibition only' is free of charge/complimentary to government officials or students. If you are a government official, or a student, then international delegates *can* benefit from these complimentary tickets; however, you will need to have (and present) relevant ID/credentials *when you collect your tickets*.

### **Can I buy a ticket on the day?**

Short answer, 'Yes' ... just like at Innotrans, you can register in advance and pay for a ticket – also, just like Innotrans, you can buy a ticket 'on the day' in the Indiana Convention Centre, but it will cost you an additional \$75 over the most expensive of the pre-booked prices. For more information, visit:

<https://register.rcsreg.com/r2/ri2025/ga/top.html> or  
<https://railwayinterchange.org/register/>.

### **How much does it cost to attend the exhibition as a visitor (if you are NOT exhibiting)**

At the moment it is \$400 (early bird rate until 31 March 2025, thereafter it increases to \$450 and the walk-in price paid at the venue on the day(s) is \$525 – however you have to complete the registration form to find out! For more information on pricing, visit:

<https://register.rcsreg.com/r2/ri2025/ga/top.html> and click on 'View registration rates'

## **FAQs for Railway Interchange (20-22 May 2025 @ the Indiana Convention Centre)**

or click on '*Begin new attendee registration*' to register your attendance. You can exit the process out at any time without any commitment to purchase.

### **How do I book exhibition space at the event?**

To book space you have to book through one of the three organising trade associations REMSA ([www.remsa.org](http://www.remsa.org)), RSI ([www.rsiweb.org](http://www.rsiweb.org)) or the RSSI ([www.rssi.org](http://www.rssi.org)). If you are a member of one of these organisations you can book exhibitions space at a preferential/discounted rate. The non-member rate is \$4,500 for a 3m x 3m space and, usually, this is the largest space that can be allocated to a 'non-member'.

### **IMPORTANT - How do I book exhibition space at the event?**

***The ERCI has developed an international relationship with REMSA and there is an agreement in place for ERCI members (Large Enterprises or SMEs) wishing to book space at Railway Interchange 2025, as follows:***

- If companies join REMSA for 12 months (\$850) then they can book space at \$3,000 per 9 sq m (a 3m x 3m booth) at a cost of **\$3,850. This is the recommended ERCI route to gain most value from the exhibition.**
- Alternatively, if companies do not wish to join REMSA for 12 months, they can book a maximum space of 3m x 3m for their booth at **\$4,000.**
- Please bear in mind that in the US, the 'Imperial' measurement system is in often used, so the actual plots are 10 feet by 10 feet – (where 10 feet = 3.048m).
- The ERCI has booked a stand through REMSA (3m x 3m) and this stand will be a focal point to advertise the European rail supply chain to the US client base.
- REMSA is also keeping an option for ERCI to group our booths together to form a 'European Rail Village' near to the ERCI stand.
- Expressions of Interest need to be lodged by 31 January 2025 (normally with 50% deposit) with payment in full by 28 February end of January

### **What are the advantages of joining REMSA?**

Membership of REMSA provides a whole range of membership services; although each company would need to judge for itself the ERCI recommends that membership of REMSA can only help a European company to break into the US Market. If you are serious about entering the US Railway Supply Chain, there are many advantages to having a membership of one of the 3 primary trade associations – if only from having a presence on their website and/or using their bid portal. For more information about REMSA, please visit: <https://www.remsa.org/>.

## **FAQs for Railway Interchange (20-22 May 2025 @ the Indiana Convention Centre)**

As an example of the value of REMSA membership, it has compiled an extensive list of Class I, regional and transit agency bid portals to allow its suppliers to plan their bidding cycles more effectively – ***please note: this is a ‘REMSA Members Only’ resource.***

### **What if I do not choose to join REMSA – can I still book exhibiting space through them?**

Yes – although the preferential rate is set at \$4,000 for a 3m x 3m booth (and this is the largest booth that can be booked using this method); this still represents a saving of \$500 on the normal non-member rate for the basic 3m x 3m booth.

### **What do I get for my money (3m x 3m booth)?**

The booths are more basic in construction than we are used to seeing at European or Middle Eastern exhibitions – however, given that the small booths (3m x 3m) will all look the same, there is still a common default ‘look and feel’ to the exhibition. The basic booth (3m x 3m) allocation is outlined here [https://railwayinterchange.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/RailwayInterchange\\_2025\\_ExhibitorProspectus.pdf](https://railwayinterchange.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/RailwayInterchange_2025_ExhibitorProspectus.pdf) (scroll down to the bottom of Page 4) and includes:

- Two complimentary ‘EXPO ONLY’ badges per 100 sq ft (9 sq m) other badges can be purchased up to 30 badges maximum per 9sq m stand.
- Construction of stand is ‘Pipe & Drape’ with an 8 ft (2.4m) back wall with 3 ft (0.9m) side walls
- Identification sign
- Basic wireless internet
- General expo hall security
- Complimentary pre- and post-event opt-in attendee lists

### **What does the basic package NOT include?**

The basic package does not include furniture, lighting, electrics or carpet – it is important to note that even if you do not need electrics, furniture or lighting, *all booths must be carpeted*. Further information and purchasing options for all of the above are available from/through the exhibition organisers once the exhibitor you have registered their space.

### **Can I order a larger stand than the basic 3m x 3m booth?**

Yes, but you have to be a member of one of the three US railway trade associations to do so. If you are already a member of REMSA, RSI or RSSI then you will be able to do so as

## **FAQs for Railway Interchange (20-22 May 2025 @ the Indiana Convention Centre)**

a member in your own right ... if you are not a member of one of these three trade associations, then joining REMSA through the ERCI-REMSA relationship is the simplest way forward.

### **What is 'Pipe and Drape' Construction?**

This means the structure is built from scaffold tubing (the 'pipe') with a dark material backdrop (the 'drape') and matching side curtains (again, the 'drape') – importantly, this means that the side walls and the back walls are *not* solid and cannot be used to mount marketing material – it is suggested that companies bring pop-up/pull-up banners or create a backdrop using a self-standing display, see image below.



### **Can I share a basic 3m x 3m booth with another company?**

Yes, there is an opportunity for co-exhibitors to display together; there is a \$500 fee to facilitate this arrangement but, both companies would be listed as separate companies on exhibitor lists, maps, the app ... and, of course, they would be allocated the same booth number.

So, the cheapest option is that a 3m x 3m booth could be booked for \$4,000 and then each of the co-exhibitors pays an additional \$250 to cover the co-exhibitor cost – a total of \$4,500 (or \$2,250 per exhibitor).

However, joining REMSA (each company paying \$850) and accessing the member rate for booking a 3m x 3m booth (\$3,000) along with the \$500 co-exhibitor fee would result in a total cost of \$5,200 (or \$2,600 per exhibitor. **Significantly, this second method offers the value of 12 months' REMSA membership for each exhibitor and is the recommended ERCI option for exhibitors sharing a booth.**

**IMPORTANT** ... the preferred option from the organisers is that Exhibitor 'A' pays the whole amount and then Exhibitor 'A' invoices Exhibitor 'B' for their half of the costs. It is important that the application from the two companies ***is made at the same time.***

**What does an 'EXPO ONLY' badge mean?**

This means you can access the Exhibition Hall and – of course – your stand. However, on its own, it does not provide for access to the (separate) Education Conference.

**How do I access the Education Conference?**

As with many exhibitions, attending the conference costs extra; although, if you register as a railroad employee, government official or a student, it appears that a \$200 discount is applied ... that said, we do not know if this deal applies to international attendees or is solely applicable to the US-based companies/delegates. For more information visit: <https://railwayinterchange.org/register/>.

**Is there a social programme during the exhibition?**

Each of the trade associations can arrange receptions or themed events either in the convention centre itself, or in nearby hotels for evening events ... these can be 'open to all' or just for the members of that particular trade association.

**What will ERCI be doing for us during the Exhibition?**

During the exhibition, a selection of ERCI cluster managers will be available on the ERCI stand to help signpost ERCI delegates [whether they are exhibiting, or simply visiting by themselves], to places of interest/importance within the exhibition hall.

Additionally, ERCI will be conducting tours, taking ERCI delegates around the exhibition floor to show them, for example, where the three US Rail Trade Associations are located, as well as identifying potential partners for assisting with product acceptance, trialling and testing, for example: MxV Rail (<https://www.mxvrail.com/>).

It is also hoped that ERCI will arrange 'Meet the Client' events during/at the show – further details will be published closer to the event either on the ERCI website (<https://www.eurailclusters.com>) or individual clusters' websites/email traffic etc.

**What else is there to do in, or around, Indianapolis?**

Plenty – not least the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for the 'petrol heads' which is on the western edge of the city; also, there is the NFL team 'Indiana Colts' who, last year, had a

## **FAQs for Railway Interchange (20-22 May 2025 @ the Indiana Convention Centre)**

home fixture during Railway Interchange week ... however, there is much, much more to 'Indy', please visit: <https://www.visitindy.com/railwayinterchange2025/> and/or <https://www.visitindy.com/things-to-do/top-ten-lists/>.

### **Will I need a Visa?**

This is a personal issue/requirement – any person travelling to United States (US), *who is not a US national*, needs travel authorization. If you are from a Visa Waiver country and you travel for leisure or business purpose, you only need an ESTA and there is no need for you to apply for the full US Visa. Therefore, the ESTA Waiver System can avoid the need to apply for a full US Visa.

For more information, and to find out if you come from a 'Visa Waiver' country, visit <https://www.estausavisa.org/> or speak to your in-country US Embassy staffs.

The ESTA is an electronic travel authorization for travellers with a passport from any of the Visa Waiver designated countries. It was introduced by the Government of the United States to reduce unnecessary time at the immigration offices and make it easier to cross the border.

Once processed, the ESTA is electronically 'attached' to your national passport; however, *it is strongly recommended* that you keep one or two paper copies in your possession whilst abroad, if only to fully prove your identity. The validity of the ESTA is 2 years from its approval date and it allows multiple entries to the US, each one for up to 90 days.

The ESTA applications are generally turned round in 2-3 days (sometimes less than an hour); however, it is known that delays can be experienced. It costs between 90-120 Euros depending on the level of processing required. If you need to apply for a full US Visa, then that will take longer, *maybe* as long as 3-4 months.