At A Glance

European Transport Practice: Rail

Our Practice

NERA Economic Consulting is an international firm of economists who understand how markets work. NERA's European Transport Practice has 10 full-time economists and a network of leading academics and industry experts who help transport industries around the world develop and implement economically sound policies. Our team combines rigorous economic thinking and the highest calibre of econometric analysis with practical experience gained from applying these tools to a wide variety of business problems.

We advise train operators and infrastructure managers, regulators and policy makers on issues of industry structure, competition, regulation, pricing, efficiency and environmental assessment.

Our staff work from our European offices, in London, Madrid, Rome and Brussels, utilising the expertise of our other offices where appropriate. NERA's Brussels office provides us with a presence at the administrative centre of the European Union.

Key Areas of Expertise

Privatisation and Liberalisation

NERA provides world-class consulting expertise on both the impact of proposed reforms and the most appropriate form of industry restructuring. We have particular expertise in the design of institutional and regulatory frameworks.

Economic Regulation

NERA is a leading adviser on regulatory issues and strategy. Our consultants are internationally recognised academics and industry experts who have been responsible for important developments in both the theory and practice of regulation throughout the world.

Cost and Pricing Analysis

Our economists help clients develop cost-reflective charging structures which encourage the efficient use of facilities and/or ensure cost recovery. We have been at the forefront in advising clients in the railway, electricity, gas and telecommunications industries on setting access charges.

Competition Policy

NERA provides economic expertise and professional support to lawyers and their clients in all areas of competition work both for the European Commission and national agencies.

Policy Appraisal and Evaluation

Policy appraisal and evaluation, including the development of guidance on methodology, is an important component of our work. NERA experts have been influential in the development of policy in this area at both the national and European government levels.

Modelling and Forecasting

NERA is renowned for its expertise in the application of econometric and quantitative techniques to real world problems. In particular, NERA has earned a reputation for developing sophisticated models vital to understanding the questions we are asked to address.

Selected Clients

Angel Train Contracts
Association of Train Operating Companies, UK
Deutsche Bahn
European Commission (DG TREN)
First Group plc
Health and Safety Executive, UK
Manager of Railway Infrastructure (GIF), Spain
National Rail Administration, Sweden
Office of Rail Regulation, UK
Railtrack plc
Strategic Rail Authority, UK

Client Experience

In 2003, NERA undertook a major study for the European Commission investigating the finances of European railways and the state payments that they received.

A study for the UK Strategic Rail Authority was produced in 2003 deriving econometric estimates of rail journey long-term demand elasticities.

In 2000/01 NERA advised the UK Office of Rail Regulation on the application of the 1998 Competition Act with respect to allegedly excessive prices charged by train operating companies.

A project for the European Commission investigating rail infrastructure charges and approaches adopted by Member States was undertaken in 1998.

In 2003, NERA assisted UK Strategic Rail Authority with the development and drafting of its rolling stock strategy.

NERA advised National Express plc on competition issues in connection with its acquisition of a number of UK rail franchises.

In late 2002 NERA completed an Economic Review of the work of the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) Project Team for the UK Health and Safety Executive.

NERA has been retained by Deutsche Bahn to advise on competition issues.

NERA has worked for the European Commission on a major study on market-based capacity allocation mechanisms in the aviation sector which was completed in early 2004.

About NERA

NERA Economic Consulting (**www.nera.com**) is a global firm of experts dedicated to applying economic, finance, and quantitative principles to complex business and legal challenges. For over half a century, NERA's economists have been creating strategies, studies, reports, expert testimony, and policy recommendations for government authorities and the world's leading law firms and corporations. We bring academic rigor, objectivity, and real world industry experience to bear on issues arising from competition, regulation, public policy, strategy, finance, and litigation.

NERA's clients value our ability to apply and communicate state-of-the-art approaches clearly and convincingly, our commitment to deliver unbiased findings, and our reputation for quality and independence. Our clients rely on the integrity and skills of our unparalleled team of economists and other experts backed by the resources and reliability of one of the world's largest economic consultancies. With its main office in New York City, NERA serves clients from more than 25 offices across North America, Europe, and Asia Pacific.