

Railway Systems that Respond to Diverse Needs



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In terms of the annual number of railway users in each country around the world, the number in Japan is the largest by far. It is widely recognized that these railways are very punctual, even though many lines in most metropolitan cities in Japan are scheduled with less than three minutes headway during rush hour. Hitachi, Ltd., as a railway system supplier, is continuously developing technologies to improve the quality of transportation services and to meet passengers' expectations.

Since global warming and other environmental issues have come to the forefront worldwide, the role of rail transportation is even more important. Thus, construction of both city commuter lines and long distance high-speed lines has intensified around the world. Because of these issues, we also think of ways to make the low emissions of railway even more efficient. Furthermore, while actively developing technologies to meet the varying standards of each nation and region, we are dedicated to global railway services by developing sophisticated technologies in this challenging Japanese market.

In this special issue, we will introduce the

following railway technologies and systems based on this approach.

- (1) Technologies to reduce environmental impact as well as to save energy of electric equipment of the "A-train" category of rolling stock products
- (2) Hybrid traction and energy storage systems for a traction power supply using lithium ion batteries
- (3) Highly reliable and high performance signaling systems for reducing the number of cables and controller boards by incorporating ICT (information communication technology)
- (4) On-board information services and transportation management systems to improve passenger services
- (5) A monorail transportation system to be inaugurated in Singapore, and rolling stock for commuter and high speed services in the UK, which would draw a lot of attention

We will introduce only a small portion of our products here but will continue to develop various technologies as a total system integrator while contributing to the improvement of worldwide railway services. We will do our best to be the most trusted partner throughout the world.