

Editorial note



Urbanization is, as you know, the next year Forum topic. With the fine support and commitment of the working group members the agenda is almost finalized and we are now entering the speakers recruitment process. We are well on track.

I have spent a fair amount of time addressing your comments about the parallel working sessions and the ways and means to be used to maximize their inputs. At the moment I am looking at different ideas and hope to bring you a positive outcome when we meet next in Athens.

Year after year we are, together, building a better organized and more productive Forum, targeting our key goal to contribute to the EU policy debate. You are all to be congratulated for this well deserved result.

I look forward to seeing you all in Athens and wish you a very Happy New Year.

Norikiyo Koide

General Manager
Hitachi Corporate Office, Europe



It is with great regret and sorrow that the European Connexion team announces the death of Forum Member Stephan Krautwald after a severe illness. Condolences can be addressed to his sister Ms. Isabelle Krautwald (Roßhastr. 77 – 70597 Stuttgart – Germany).

The Connexion team will remember Stephan as a committed Forum member who participated in the activities of the Forum Working Group in 2002 and who was always willing to participate and to be involved. He will be greatly missed by all of us.

Working Group Meeting

Dear forum members, the working group for the next forum met on the 5th and the 6th of November in Brussels. Its purpose was to define the agenda of the upcoming event that is going to take place in Athens in May 2005. It was led by Dr. Konidaris, who agreed to be the general forum moderator of the forum as he had last year. The other participants were from Hitachi Tokyo (Mr Abe, Mr Iwamura and Mr Yamano), Hitachi Europe (Sir Gomersall and Mr Takagi), Hitachi Corporate Office in Europe (Mr Koide, Mr Dupuis and Ms Kinoshita), the forum fellows (Mr Nakamura, Mr Gielen, Mr Schmitz and Mr Longin) and the working group members (Ms Molin-Lutz, Ms Schütz, Mr Anthonissen, Mr Mitchell and Mr Nguyen). We had the honour to have Mr Corantis with us for dinner: Mr Corantis is the ambassador of Greece where the forum will take place.

The topic of this year's forum is "urbanization". Urbanization is quite a vague notion, covering a lot of things going from building materials to traffic control, quality of life or pollution. As they are quite numerous, we spent a lot of time defining those issues. But since a whole week-end would not be sufficient to list all the problems linked to urbanization, we had to shorten the list and decided to focus mainly on the issues that could be solved by current and/or future technology(ies). Hitachi presented to us some of those useful technologies. Starting from there and joining our efforts, we eventually managed to shape the agenda for the forum. Although the names of the speakers have not been defined yet, we know what topics they should cover so that the parallel working sessions would go as smoothly as possible.

This year, organizing parallel working sessions gave us a lot of trouble. Indeed, one of the main purposes of the working sessions is to have the forum members react and use what they know and what they have learned during the speeches to solve issues related to the topic. But due to their conception, the current working sessions have been too passive so far. In order to make these sessions more interesting for you, we have decided to try to make them more active. This year's topic is well adapted to be treated differently, that is to say in the form of a game. Unless something unexpected happens, the parallel working sessions will be organized according to the game's rules. For the details you will have to wait until May. I hope that everyone will enjoy this new concept..

By the end of the week-end we had managed to create a skeleton for the both the agenda and the parallel working

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sessions. We had decided upon the contents of the various speeches and the topics of the sessions and had agreed on the way they are going to be organized. This was no easy task, so I would like to thank everyone for their efforts and their hard work and for devoting their precious time to attend this meeting. I hope that you will all enjoy your stay in Athens and find the upcoming forum to your liking.

Thanh Lam Nguyen
Working Group 2005 Chairman

8th EU Hitachi Science & Technology Forum : Outline Agenda

Friday May 20th 2005

Optional afternoon visit of Athens by bus

- Official Opening Speeches by Hitachi, Japanese and Greek Officials
- Keynote Speech
- Hitachi Technology Presentation

Welcome Reception

Saturday 21st May 2005

- Introduction : Major Trends in Urbanization in the world
- Presentation I : Environment (Energy, Waste, Air/Water pollution, noise, ...)
- Presentation II : Security and Safety (monitoring the city, freedom of movement, ...)

Coffee Break

- Presentation III : Mobility (Public transport, traffic management, ITS, Private transport, goods delivery, ...)
- Presentation IV : Urban Planning (Regulatory framework, Urban Systems Management, Disaster prevention, ...)
- Presentation V : Building Technologies (New materials, Energy saving, resource management, ...)

Lunch

- The rules for the Parallel Sessions
- Parallel Working Sessions
 - Environment
 - Security and Safety
 - Mobility
 - Urban Planning
 - Building Technologies

Reception and Dinner Party

Sunday 22nd May 2005

- Parallel Session Results

Coffee Break

- General Q&A Session
- Closing Remarks

Lunch



Hitachi wins Channel Tunnel rail link contract

Hitachi has been selected as preferred supplier to deliver around 30 high-speed 'A' trains to operate domestic services on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) and local lines in Kent as part of the new Integrated Kent Franchise. Each train will consist of 6 coaches and will have the ability to rapidly couple to operate as 12 coach trains. Hitachi will also maintain the new trains, initially for the duration of the new Integrated Kent Franchise.

Hitachi's high speed 'A' train combines technical innovation with safety, comfort and reliability. With the ability to travel on local lines in Kent combined with the ability to travel at 140 mph on the new CTRL line, Hitachi's High Speed 'A' Train will dramatically cut journey times into London. The Trains will be configured as a high speed commuter service with comfortable seating, CCTV, Passenger Information Systems and fully compliant with disability regulations.

The "A-train" provides many advantages including a much quieter interior, improved rigidity and a safer crashworthy structure. In addition, the modular concept approach has enabled easier refurbishment and better residual value. It is also superior to conventional trains in terms of recyclability due to the use of aluminium and its module-to-mounting rail structure which can be easily dismantled.

By greatly reducing the number of components in the carbody structure and eliminating most of the adjustment processes in the interior panel fitting, the "A-train" is effective in reducing life-cycle cost and environmental damage.



Visit the new Forum homepage:
www.hitachiforum.com

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The Hitachi Corporate Office, Europe welcomes and encourages your comments and ideas.

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