

TP PLUS

The Latest News of the Global APM Market

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*2005 ends with new bursts of R&D.
Best wishes for 2006,
which looks to be a breakthrough year.*

INDUSTRY NEWS

1. This week a team of engineers from British PRT developer **ATS** is visiting in Morgantown to learn more about WVU controls there for the project to run a demonstration project at London Heathrow Airport.
2. Los Angeles-based **TIG** (spin-off of Entertainment Engineering) is to display its 50-passenger tram concept for implementation at the San Diego Wild Animal Park, a project of five guided vehicles.
3. An article on Swedish PRT development **SKY CAB** appeared in the November issue of *Aktuel R&D*, a Swedish-language magazine on R&D news and trends. A vehicle is on the cover; inside, a 3-page article.
4. A 5-vehicle fleet of **ROBOSOFT** AGVs are in regular service to visitors at a Maginot Line fort in Simmerhof. Vehicles move at 10km/hr over the 800-meter tour. An urban application is planned for Bayonne.
5. Academic studies and testing at Germany's Univ. of Paderborn have led to the establishment of **RAIL-CAB** -- a modular APM design using asynchronous motors on existing rail track. With a 1:2.5 track running, private investment, and a full-scale vehicle in testing, a \$20m R&D program has been defined.

PROFESSIONAL NEWS

6. **AMTRAK** is in crisis, with the annual deficit now over \$1B. 2006 funds will be \$1.3B, up 8% over 2005. \$0.5B is for O&M, and \$0.8B for capital needs. A separate subsidiary for the Boston-Washington corridor, to be managed by a consortium of Federal and state governments served, is to be created.

7. With Federal funds, the **MAGLEV** demo at Old Dominion Univ. (Richmond VA) is to be salvaged by a team of academic and NASA aerospace engineers. There is “closure” with Amer. Mag-lev that spent millions building a dysfunctional on-campus demo. There are also funds for the California Univ. of PA, where officials plan a demo system with General Atomics technology. Will NASA become involved?
8. **APM07** will be formally announced in a *Call for Abstracts* next month. Reviewed papers will be presented in the 11th of the international **ASCE** series, to take place in **VIENNA** April 22-25, 2007, and appear in the *Proceedings*. Abstracts are due Sept. 1, 2006. Sponsor is an architectural and engineering academy.
9. *Trans.21* has compiled contacts for all **U.S. APM** operators. If interested, email lfabian@airfront.us.

AIRPORT PROJECTS

10. “*Recovery With Wings!*” sings a feature article in this month’s issue of **AVIATION** magazine *ATW*. Based on a surge in aircraft orders, a bullish outlook is more apparent outside the U.S. than in, where the sting of high oils costs is apparently felt more. Can airport expansions and APM orders be far behind?
11. It’s more embarrassment for Siemens due to problems in **DUSSELDORF**, whose 2.5km, 4-station landside *H-Bahn* reopened last week after being closed six weeks. Next year it will close March –Sept. to allow a general overhaul to correct “many faults” and bumpiness in the steel guideway built by Krupp.
12. The addition of Terminal 3 at **FRANKFURT** will include a 3.5km extension of the 3km Bombardier-supplied *Sky Line* running since 1994. Not known: sole-source negotiation or international competition?
13. Will the APM underway in Mexico City spawn others in security-challenged Latin America? New terminals are planned for **LIMA** (only 5m/yr) and **BUENOS AIRES** (Ezeiza with 5m). No mention of APMs for either. Nor for Brasilia (9m), Caracas (6m), Rio (5m), Santiago (6m), and Sao Paulo (13m).

EMERGING PROJECTS

14. A “specific plan” for **SAN JOSE**’s Coyote Valley is underway, to be submitted to City Council this spring. Envisioned in its master plan is a free-standing, transit-oriented community with 25,000 housing units and 50,000 jobs, 19km south of downtown. Talk is of buses feeding proposed a regional rail station.
15. In Europe, driverless metros are now routine. **BUDAPEST**’s new Line 4 is to be fully automated. **PRAGUE** will retrofit Line B retaining drivers, but “upgradeable”. A new airport link there is to be driverless. **HELSINKI** is deciding whether to convert its one line. There has been similar talk in **LONDON** and **ST. PETERSBURG** for decades, as for a *TransRapid* in Europe (e.g. to Munich Airport).
16. Ski resort developer Intrawest includes a \$6m open-air gondola (*cabriolet*) for **WINTER PARK, CO** in their 1500-unit+retail plans for upscale investors. The \$70m first phase includes two condo-hotels.
17. The strategy to revitalize downtown **TUCSON** includes a 366m pedestrian bridge over a highway and a riverbed to join the old center with civic facilities to a museum and historic district on the other side. Its structure will also house a proposed science center. Will it be built? Would an APM be more effective?