

A SWITCH TRACK FOR MAGNETICALLY LEVITATED VEHICLES

A long-standing problem with magnetically levitated (Maglev) transit systems is designing a switch to transfer the vehicles from one track to another. Alternative configurations have been compared and an active version selected as the optimum solution. A description is given of the design, construction and testing of a prototype switch which has been installed as part of British Rail's Maglev test track.

The report concludes that a long-standing problem with Maglev systems has been solved by demonstrating a satisfactory switching device. The shuttle concept can now be extended to more complex systems, further increasing the applications of Maglev.