

BRITISH RAILWAYS AUTOMATIC TRAIN OPERATION – PROJECT TERMINAL REPORT AND DOCUMENTATION GUIDE

The BRATO project was conceived as a general purpose method for the automatic driving of trains running on a surface railway, whilst enabling development to continue towards complete automatic operation. It was thought that savings in traction energy (due to more disciplined driving techniques) could justify such a scheme. Therefore it was decided to commence work on a system which would be implemented in pilot form within six years.

The project was abandoned before completion of the first testing stage – at the 6km test track at Mickleover, using the R&D test vehicle Gemini – due to the lack of available resources and the worsening financial climate, which made the requirement for ATO on BR, to the timescale originally envisaged, very uncertain.

This report outlines the history and development of the scheme, together with details of the scheme, such as operational requirements and how to meet them, autodriving techniques, equipment, data transmission, areas requiring further work. Details of reports and documentation connected with the project are also given.