

## THE TECHNOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF RUNNING 300KM/H TRAINS IN BRITAIN

The growth of diesel and electric traction in the early 1960's created the opportunity for increased traffic speeds, with the majority of inter-city services now having an upper speed limit of 140 to 160 km/h. The rail industry noted that a reduction in journey time resulted in an increase in demand.

The report discusses the technical implications of running an Advanced Passenger Train (APT) at 300 km/h on present or slightly improved alignments, seeking to demonstrate that although expensive, the option is feasible. This also provides a baseline against which other High Speed Ground Transport (HSGT) can be compared.

The report concludes that to operate the current APT/P trains at 300 km/h limited train development would be required particularly in upgrading the power output. However, major track improvements in vertical alignment would be required, which are even more costly and difficult to maintain.