

Dear Reader,

In this second Special Edition of the international professional journal RTR Rail Technology Review, which addresses the issue of SLAB TRACK (also known as Ballastless track), the continuing development of systems and components will be presented to you, together with exemplary applications.

The first edition in 2006 focussed on developments for high speed rail. In this edition the scope has been widened to Slab Track Systems in the fields of Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) and Light Rail Transit (LRT).

Examples of projects in Asia and Europe convey the variety of possible applications for systems and components.

To give a good introduction to this technically highly complex area, RTR was able to win the services of two renowned experts, Dr. Edgar Darr und Dipl.-Ing. (FH) Werner Fiebig, who have been involved with the developments of slab track systems in Germany and abroad for many years.

In an extensive survey they present the diversity of existing systems and their special features. The contribution is based on the book „Feste Fahrbahn – Konstruktion und Bauarten für Eisenbahn und Straßenbahn“ (“Slab Track – Engineering and Styles of Construction for Rail and Tram”, published in German) offering a comprehensive insight into slab track technology.

By now slab track technology is used throughout the world as demonstrated by the examples selected from Germany, Austria, India, China etc.



I would like to thank all authors, engineers from industry and research for their willingness to provide contributions to this special edition in addition to their demanding day-to-day work. You, the reader, have the chance to contact the authors directly. The addresses are to be found in the section on authors' information.

My special thanks go to Nigel Ogilvie, former Director of Rail-track and head of the Civil engineering support group of UIC Infrastructure Committee. He was strongly engaged in the translation of this RTR special.

I hope you will find the publication interesting and I would be pleased to receive your suggestions and opinions about this second special edition of RTR: SLAB TRACK.

(Willy Waßmuth)