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USE OF GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) IN THE RAILWAY SECTOR

Transmitted by the Governments of Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia)

HUNGARY

The Directorate of Hungarian State Railways Co. Ltd. for Signalling and Telecommunication has monitored the experiments to introduce GPS for trains and the launch of Galileo project within the 5th Framework Program of the EC for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities in order to analyze the application of GPS in the railway sector and to initiate pilot projects.

On this basis the Directorate was invited by Alcatel Austria AG, its HTA Ltd (Budapest) and other subcontractors to make a common bid for a GPS based project to position railway vehicles through traffic management on different sidings, in the 6th Framework Program, considering that introduction of ETCS and its combination with the GPS can give new perspective in setting the principles for vehicles' positioning on a new basis. The decision is due by 30 June 2003.

In conclusion there is no particular experience with GPS in rail freight in Hungary for the time being.

SLOVAKIA

In the past the possibility of using the GPS within the ZSR network was tested. This system would be able to provide precise and reliable real time monitoring of the train's movements (this system was tested with an IC train). Currently, the ZSR is preparing a pilot section (GSM-R) on the track Bratislava – Nové Zámky (approx. 100 km), where the Kapsch company prepares project recommendations and conducts the necessary electromagnetic field measurements. The ETCS projects are being considered for the corridors IV, V and VI. There was already elaborated the ERMTS study on the corridor IV in 2000 and for further sections an analysis will be conducted.

SLOVENIA

There are no experiences in using the GPS system in railway freight transport in Slovenia.
