

Dear Readers

We are delivering the 190th issue of our quarterly magazine, the first of those scheduled for publication in 2021. Despite the unusual circumstances resulting from the ongoing pandemic, the technical, organisational and economic issues relating to rail transport are not in decline. This is evidenced by the content of the articles that make up this issue.

Stanisław Gago from the Railway Research Institute presents the impact of the global development of IT and logistics systems on the planning and development of ICT networks for rail transport in Poland. One of the main tasks of such a network is to ensure data transmission for the ERTMS system.

The article by W. Koc from the Gdańsk University of Technology characterises the assumptions of a very interesting method for determining the curvature of the track's horizontal axis, the basis of which are changes in the angles of inclination of the moving chord in the Cartesian coordinate system.

The article by M. Ostromecka and A. Aniszewicz from the Railway Research Institute refers to the testing of the assembly strength of elastic rail clips. This study determines the impact of repeated assembly and disassembly operations of rail clips. Two articles prepared by experts from the Railway Research Institute deal with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on rail transport operations. The first of them, by J. Poliński and K. Ochociński, refer to passenger transport on Polish railways. The second article, by A. Pomykała, deals with the issue of infrastructure access rates.

The article of J. Siwec from the Railway Research Institute presents a solution for powering rail vehicles, i.e. hydrogen fuel cells. The current condition of rolling stock and railway infrastructure is characterised and national and international deployment plans presented.

I hope that the highly topical subject matter of the articles contained in this issue will be of interest to readers and will be helpful in their work and activities.

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Editor-in-Chief*