

Dear Readers,

The year 2025 marks the bicentenary of the opening of the world's first railway line. Built by G. Stephenson, the railway connected Stockton and Darlington in England. At present, railways operate successfully on all continents except Antarctica.

Railway transport is of particularly great importance in the Eurasian space. The development of railway transport across Europe and Asia is fostered by international cooperation within the Organisation for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD). The first article in this issue of Problemy Kolejnictwa [Railway Reports] is devoted to the role of the OSJD in railway freight transport. The author of the article is M. Antonowicz, the Chairman of the OSJD.

Two subsequent articles, by M. Graff, concern the modernisation of railway infrastructure in Podlasie and in Warmia and Mazury. In both of these regions, the role of railway transport, both passenger and freight, has hitherto been relatively small. The author presents completed and planned projects related to the modernisation and construction of railway lines, the most important of which is the construction of Rail Baltica as a TEN-T core network corridor.

The increase in train speeds, as well as the construction of high-speed railways, are important premises for undertaking research concerning geometric track layouts adapted for operating at such speeds. One of the fundamental elements of geometric layouts are transition curves. The article by W. Koc is devoted to the selection of such curves.

Increasing train speeds and rising axle loads mean that greater demands are also placed on railway rails and their joints. The article by M. Ostromęcka presents the results of research conducted at the Railway Research Institute on welded joints of 60E1 profile rails, made of R260 and R350HT steel using the flash resistance welding method.

I hope that the topics presented in this issue will prove interesting to our readers and will contribute to deepening the knowledge of railway engineering.

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