

EUROMECH

EUROPEAN MECHANICS SOCIETY

Final Report

Please send this report to the Secretary General of EUROMECH, within one month after the Colloquium.

EUROMECH Colloquium No: 392

Title: *MECHANICS OF RAILWAY INTERFACES*

Dates and location: *25-27, MARCH 1999, SHEFFIELD, UK*

Chairperson: *PROF RA SMITH*

Co-Chairperson: */*

Is there need of another Colloquium on the same or a related subject? Which year? *?*

Full registration fee:

What other funding was obtained? *YES.*

What were the participants offered?

FULL BOARD, ALL MEALS, COLLOQUIUM DINNER, TEA/COFFEE BREAKS, ABSTRACTS BOOKLET.

Number of members of EUROMECH (reduced registration fee):

Number of non-members of EUROMECH (full registration fee):

Number of participants from each country:

Austria	<u>1</u>	Germany	<u>1</u>	Romania	<u> </u>
Belgium	<u> </u>	Great Britain	<u>19</u>	Russia	<u> </u>
Byelorussia	<u> </u>	Greece	<u> </u>	Slovakia	<u> </u>
Bosnia	<u> </u>	Hungary	<u> </u>	Slovenia	<u> </u>
Bulgaria	<u> </u>	Ireland	<u>1</u>	Spain	<u> </u>
Croatia	<u> </u>	Italy	<u> </u>	Sweden	<u>1</u>
Czech Rep ^l	<u> </u>	Latvia	<u> </u>	Switzerland	<u> </u>
Denmark	<u> </u>	Lithuania	<u> </u>	Ukraine	<u> </u>
Estonia	<u> </u>	Netherlands	<u> </u>	Yugoslavia	<u> </u>
Finland	<u> </u>	Norway	<u> </u>	Others	<u> </u>
France	<u> </u>	Poland	<u> </u>	Japan	<u>4</u>
Georgia	<u> </u>	Portugal	<u> </u>	USA	<u>1</u>
				Total	<u>28</u>

Scientific Report

28 people, the majority from the UK, four from Japan, and one each from Austria, Germany, Ireland, Sweden and the USA attended this meeting. Sixteen presentations were made in the following topic areas:

- The wheel/rail contact 7
- Aerodynamics 3
- Crashworthiness 2
- Dynamics 2
- Noise & Vibration 2

Although contributions were invited on the interactions between the train and current collecting devices, none were forthcoming. Likewise there were no contributions on the mechanics of pollutant dispersal. The wheel/rail contact provided nearly half the programme.

The small numbers attending the meeting and the residential nature of the arrangements, led to active and informal discussions which were much appreciated by the attendees. Several of the authors are preparing papers for publication in the I Mech E's Journal of Rail & Rapid Transit. All delegates expressed this pleasure at the arrangements and the technical usefulness of the meeting.

From an organisational point of view, I was extremely surprised by the financial arrangements expected from EUROMECH. If I had been unable to obtain sponsorship from AEA Technology Rail, the meeting would have run at a considerable loss (not including the large amount of staff time spent on organisation). I had to offer free places to two UK delegates, all my colleagues from Japan and reduced fees for three research students. Furthermore, only two delegates attended through EUROMECH publicity - all the others were at my personal invitation.

Nevertheless, this was a most worthwhile activity and led to much networking between the delegates.

1 April 1999 *Roderic Alth.*