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Hitachi Europe launches European Rail Research Centre

- Research Centre underpins growing importance of Hitachi's rail business in the UK -

LONDON, UK, October 10, 2012 – Hitachi Europe Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Hitachi, Ltd. (TSE:6501), today announced that it has launched a European Rail Research Centre to support the global growth of Social Innovation Business. The European Rail Research Centre will be located within the Hitachi Rail Europe Ltd. office in central London and will be part of Hitachi Europe's Transportation Energy & Environment Research Laboratory, European Research Division.

The newly established European Rail Research Centre will focus on a broad range of areas, including rolling stock design (interior and exterior), manufacturing practices, maintenance and Traffic Management Systems.

Hitachi is enhancing its global research bases to promote localized research and development. Hitachi Europe already has a network of research facilities throughout Europe, consisting of the Hitachi Cambridge Laboratory, the Hitachi Design Centre Europe, the Information and Communication Technology Laboratory, and the Automotive R&D Laboratory. In April 2011, Hitachi Europe newly established the Transportation Energy & Environment Research Laboratory, expanding its European R&D activities to cover its railway, coal-fired thermal power, power electronics and automotive businesses.

Railway Systems is one Hitachi's core business areas in Europe, with Hitachi Rail Europe recently agreeing to supply, service and maintain the next fleet of rail carriages for the UK's Intercity Express Programme. Hitachi Rail Europe has also received an order from Network Rail Infrastructure Limited ("Network Rail") in the UK for a prototype Traffic Management System. The European Rail Research Centre will

support Hitachi's expanding rail business and improve the Hitachi Group's presence in Europe.

Shigeru Azuhata, Executive Vice President and Executive Officer, Hitachi Group Chief Technology Officer, commented: "At Hitachi, we place huge importance on research and development, as demonstrated by our extensive laboratories around the world. With the growth of our rail business in Europe and the UK, we felt that it was paramount to establish a dedicated research facility directly where key issues in areas such as maintenance, manufacture and Traffic Management Systems will present themselves. This growth in our local capabilities will enable us to better pursue our company's global growth strategy for our Social Innovation Business."

Kiyoshi Yamamoto, Managing Director of Hitachi Europe, commented: "We expect the European Rail Research Centre to support Hitachi's railway business in Europe and contribute to the development of the region's railway infrastructure. The Research Centre will provide safe and high quality solutions by applying Hitachi's leading technologies. In the future, we'd like to expand the research centre with a local office to directly support Hitachi Rail Europe's planned manufacturing and assembly plant in the UK."

Alistair Dormer, Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Hitachi Rail Europe, commented: "Having the new European Rail Research Centre located in our European headquarters is a great asset and shows the level of long-term thinking and investment by Hitachi's Research & Development Division. While Hitachi Rail Europe builds up its manufacturing facility in the UK, the findings of the Research Centre will feed into how we best establish the processes in the plant. Our recent contract win for a prototype for a UK Traffic Management System will be supported by local research. The European Rail Research Centre's work on maintenance practices as carried out by our facility for the Class 395 train in Ashford, Kent, will help us hone our capabilities for maintaining the Super Express Trains for the Intercity Express Programme, showcasing how we are working locally in the UK and Europe on local research topics."

■ Overview of European Rail Research Centre

Name	European Rail Research Centre, European R&D Centre, Hitachi Europe Ltd.
Research Content	R&D areas including rolling stock design (interior and exterior), manufacturing practices, maintenance and Traffic Management Systems
Launch date	10 th October, 2012
Place	7 th Floor, 40 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1N 2PB, United Kingdom (Located within Hitachi Rail Europe Ltd.)

About Hitachi Europe Ltd.

Hitachi Europe Ltd., headquartered in Maidenhead, UK, a subsidiary of Hitachi, Ltd., and its subsidiary companies offer a broad range of information & telecommunication systems; power and industrial system; rail system; digital media and consumer products; industrial components and equipment; air conditioning and refrigeration systems; manufacturing systems; and procurement and sourcing with operations throughout 12 countries across Europe, the Middle East and Africa. And Hitachi Europe also has three Research and Development laboratories and a design centre. For more information, visit <http://www.hitachi.eu>. For more information on other Hitachi Group companies in Europe, please visit <http://www.hitachi.eu/network/index.html>

About Hitachi, Ltd.

Hitachi, Ltd., (TSE: 6501), headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, is a leading global electronics company with approximately 320,000 employees worldwide. Fiscal 2011 (ended March 31, 2012) consolidated revenues totaled 9,665 billion yen (\$117.8 billion). Hitachi is focusing more than ever on the Social Innovation Business, which includes information and telecommunication systems, power systems, environmental, industrial and transportation systems, and social and urban systems, as well as the sophisticated materials and key devices that support them. For more information on Hitachi, please visit the company's website at <http://www.hitachi.com>.

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