

Special Topic 4 Tenth Anniversary of the Suica Card and its Future

The Suica IC card, which was introduced in 2001, celebrated its 10th anniversary on November 18, 2011. The total number of Suica cards issued now exceeds 40 million, and its popularity has increased widely throughout the country, thanks to its use as electronic money and to its interchangeability with other IC cards to pay for travel by public transport.

Suica's current status

The Suica card service was launched on November 18th, 2001 as an IC-based railway farecard, usable at 424 stations on our lines in the Tokyo Metropolitan area. The scope of the service was expanded with the aim of catering for customers' needs by enlarging the area of service, increasing the card's interchangeability and extending its use as e-money. Mobile Suica was also introduced for use with mobile telephones, along with the View Suica Card, which can also function as a credit card. Suica business is thus developing as a third pillar of our business operation, joining our railway and life-style businesses.

Service Area



VIEW Suica card
July 2003 –



Suica electronic money
March 2004 –



Mobile Suica
January 2006 –



Suica Point service
June 2007 –



Suica Internet service
July 2009 –

Status of Suica As of the end of July 2012

- Number of Suica cards issued: 40.20 million, of which 37.90 million have e-money capability Mobile Suica members: about 2.92 million
- Number of stations at which Suica can be used: 759 railway stations in the JR East network, and also on 38 other railways and 89 bus operators throughout Japan.
- Number of shops and establishments with Suica terminals: approximately 183,180 shops and 337,790 establishments.
- Maximum number of uses per day: approximately 3.4 million (July 27, 2012)
- Number of uses per month: approximately 87.03 million

Suica in the Future

In order to develop Suica's potential as the third pillar of our business operation, JR East will strive to expand still further the areas in which Suica services are available, to enlarge its range and to promote and develop the use of Suica e-money. More specifically, ten IC cards used in public transport throughout the country will be made interchangeable during the Spring of 2013, which will add to the convenience of Suica use. (This will make Suica interchangeable with manaca (Nagoya Railroad and Nagoya City Transport Bureau) and PiTaPa (Surutto Kansai Council)). Suica will also become usable in the service area of RYUTO (Niigata Kotsu Co., Ltd.) during the Spring of 2013, and in the service area of SAPICA (Sapporo City Transportation Bureau) by the end of fiscal 2014.

The convenience of Suica e-money will be increased by adding locations and areas where Suica can be used for payments. We are also committed to meeting new challenges by making Suica information available as marketing data.

Prospect of Nationwide Interchangeable Use of IC Cards (FY2014 and after)

