Press release

October 27, 2026

East Japan Railway Company
West Japan Railway Company

IRS 70734 Incorporating Japan's Shinkansen Expertise Wins Excellence in Railway Publication AWARDS

International Recognition for JR East and JR West's Joint Contributions to Worldwide Industry Standard

- East Japan Railway Company (JR East) and West Japan Railway Company (JR West) have jointly promoted international standardization activities aimed at incorporating the technical expertise and safety philosophy developed through Japan's railway system into international railway standards. These activities contribute to greater mutual understanding among railway systems and facilitate overseas business development. As part of these efforts, both companies have worked to incorporate expertise from Japan's Shinkansen system into industry standards published by the International Union of Railways (UIC), as International Railway Solution (IRS).
- IRS 70734 specifies conformity requirements for safety-related equipment and train control systems for high-speed railways. After approximately two years of discussions, the standard was revised to incorporate expertise from Japan's Shinkansen system and was officially published in April 2026.
- Excellence in Railway Publication AWARD was presented to IRS 70734, developed with the participation of JR East and JR West. The award recognizes outstanding UIC publications, including technical specifications, guidelines and IRSs. The award ceremony was held in Paris, France, on October 13, 2026.

The International Union of Railways (UIC) is a global railway organization founded in 1922 and headquartered in Paris, France. It brings together approximately 220 railway and railway-related organizations worldwide and develops industry standards to support international railway cooperation and interoperability.

International Railway Solutions (IRSs) are railway industry standards developed and published by UIC. The migration from the former UIC Leaflet framework to IRSs began in 2013, and 413 IRSs had been published as of December 2025.

1. Excellence in Railway Publication AWARDS



Photo: Excellence in Railway Publication Award Ceremony

・UIC's Excellence in Railway Publication AWARDS recognize outstanding specifications, guidelines and other UIC publications. The awards promote improvements in publication quality and recognize achievements in areas such as collaboration with external organizations, innovation and contributions to railway business development.

・IRS 70734 received UIC's Excellence in Railway Publication Award. This recognition marks JR East's third UIC award, following awards for IRS 60682 in 2022 and IRS 60660 in 2024. The recognition also marks JR West's first UIC award.

(Comment from the Chair of the UIC Standardisation Platform)


Laurent Schmitt
UIC Standardisation Platform Chair
SNCF (French National Railways)

First of all, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the Working Group on receiving the UIC Excellence in Railway Publication Award for IRS 70734.

This distinction recognises the successful modernisation of a long-standing reference document, reflecting current high-speed railway technologies and operational requirements. It also acknowledges the valuable contribution of expertise and experience from Europe, Japan, China and India.

Beyond the publication itself, this achievement demonstrates the ability of experts from different railway systems and professional backgrounds to reach a shared international understanding and to develop a technical reference of practical value to the sector.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Working Group leaders and to all those who contributed to this important work. I hope that the spirit of international cooperation which made this achievement possible will continue to support the safe, efficient and sustainable development of high-speed railways around the world.

2. IRS 70734

・IRS 70734 specifies conformity requirements for safety installations, including train control systems, for high-speed railways.

・The original version of this standard, UIC Leaflet 734, was published in 1986 and was mainly based on railway systems in Europe. At that time, many aspects of the Shinkansen system, including its underlying safety philosophy and operational practices, were not fully reflected in the document.

・During the revision undertaken by the High-Speed Rail IRS Working Group, JR East and JR West jointly proposed the incorporation of technical expertise derived from the Shinkansen system. These joint contributions helped broaden the scope of the standard and supported the development of an international technical document that incorporates diverse approaches to high-speed railway operations and train control systems.

(Major Contributions by JR East and JR West)

Drawing on technologies adopted on the Shinkansen, JR East and JR West proposed the inclusion of train control systems used in Japan that automatically reduce train speed, in addition to driver-operated train speed reduction systems widely used in Europe and China. As a result, IRS 70734 was published with descriptions of both approaches included within the same standard.

Participating Organizations in the Working Group include:

- East Japan Railway Company (JR East)
- West Japan Railway Company (JR West)
- China State Railway Group (China Railway) and affiliated companies
- SNCF (French National Railways)
- Deutsche Bahn (DB, German Railways)
- National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL, India)

Related Press Releases:

・October 26, 2022: International Industry Standard Reflecting Japan's Shinkansen Technology Wins UIC Publication Award!
https://www.jreast.co.jp/press/2022/20221026_ho01.pdf

・October 17, 2024: Standard Defining Basic Specifications for High-Speed Trains Wins UIC Publication Award
https://www.jreast.co.jp/press/2024/20241017_ho03.pdf