

ABSTRACT

This communication presents an overview of the commercial impact (in terms of market share and traffic) of high speed rail on the European transport system after 25 years of commercial service of the first European high speed rail line between Paris and Lyon. It is analyzed the influence that this kind of transport has had on the utilization of competing transport modes for medium and long distance: plane and private car. The Japanese experience is also analyzed in order to provide a background reference for the European high speed lines.