

Sojitz Cororation
Sojitz Corporation of America

SOJITZ Corporation of America Receives Order for Rail Cars for State of North Carolina

Diesel Passenger Cars to Make their Debut in the US

(Japan, November 16, 2004)--Sojitz Corporation of America, a US subsidiary of Sojitz Corporation, in partnership with the Hyundai Motors group rolling stock manufacturer ROTEM Company (located in Seoul Korea), has been awarded an order for thirty two new type diesel rail cars, valued at approximately 10 billion yen, by the Triangle Transit Authority (TTA) based in North Carolina in the United States.

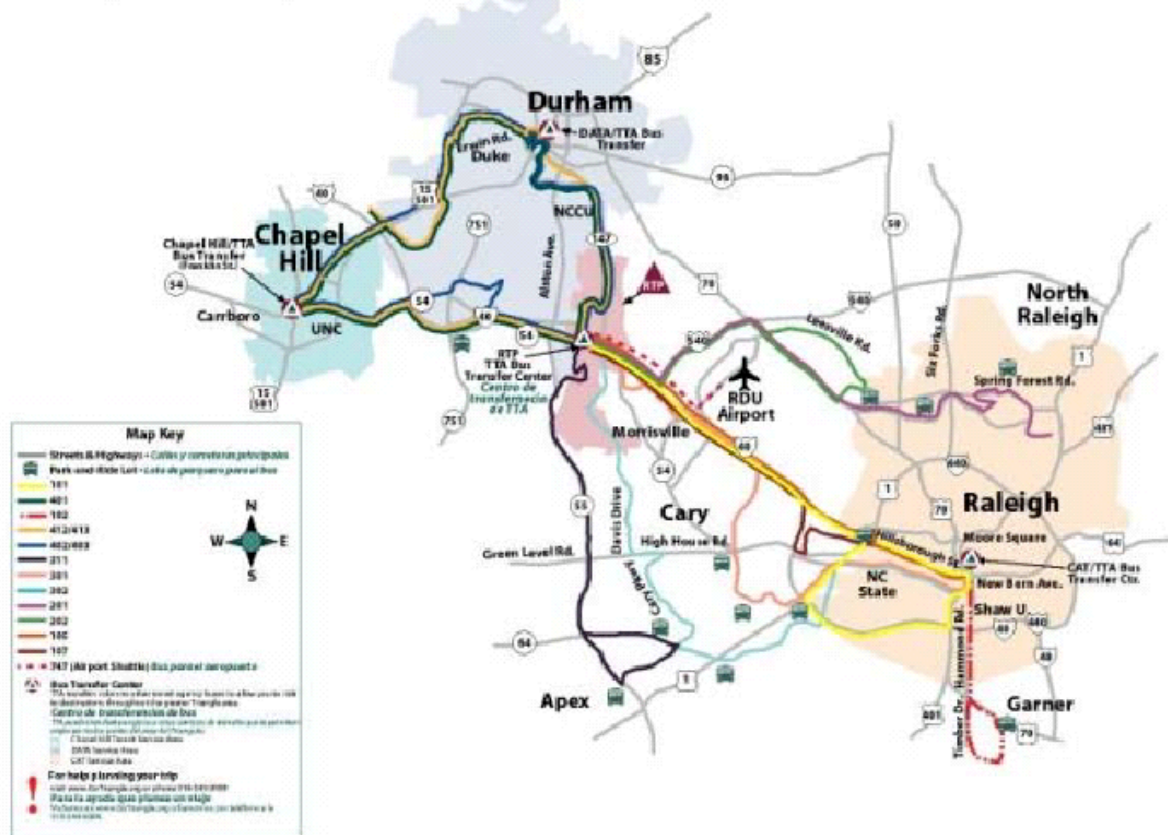
The diesel rail cars to be delivered by the Sojitz Group will have the most advanced specifications, which are in compliance with the latest American railroad standards and which respond to US emission controls from the year 2008. It is planned that the diesel rail cars will have a maximum speed of 125 km/h, and that each car will have 80 seats. This project is subject to the BUY AMERICA requirements, as it was funded by the US Federal Government. The final assembly of the coaches will therefore be carried out at the factory in Philadelphia City.



Conceptual drawing of the rail cars to be delivered to the Triangle Transit Authority

TTA is a public transportation provider serving areas between the North Carolina State Capitol Raleigh City, and Durham City and its surroundings, where Duke University and the laboratories of many large companies are concentrated. TTA originally specialized in passenger transportation using buses. However, as a result of conducting a detailed review of railway development, which commenced in 1992 with funding from the US Federal Government and with the aim of developing a more advanced public transportation network, a conclusion was reached that more efficient railway transportation would become possible through the operation of self-propelled diesel rail cars, which require no electrical equipment or traction engines, using existing rail tracks owned by the state railway. Approval in principle was obtained for this from the US Federal Government. The cars, to be used on a 45km long rail line, are scheduled to begin operation in 2008.

TTA System Map



TTA System Map

Since the undertaking of business in 1978, the number of rail car orders the Sojitz Group has received from the US rail car market has already exceeded eight hundred. Large-scale orders have been received since the year 2000, such as that received through a liaison with Mitsubishi Electric Corporation and Canadian-based Bombardier Transportation, and the recent order received through a liaison with Mitsubishi Electric Corporation and US-based General Motors Corporation. The Sojitz Group, together with ROTEM Company, has undertaken an expansion of rail car sales since 2002. Results achieved in the US by SOJITZ CORPORATION OF AMERICA in the field of railways, and ROTEM's technical capabilities and price competitiveness have been highly valued, leading to the successful first time receipt of the large-scale order. There are currently many plans in the US to introduce new type rail cars. Sojitz will continue its activities in an effort to receive additional orders for various rail cars, as well as for the diesel rail cars that are the subject of this order.

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