Aichi Companies Support US Rail

Nippon Sharyo U.S.A., Inc., a subsidiary of Aichi based Nippon Sharyo, Ltd., and prime contractor Sumitomo Corporation of America were awarded a $352 million dollar contract to build more than 130 passenger cars designed for semi-high-speed rail. The contract was awarded by Caltrans, California Department of Transportation, however it is a multi-state deal that includes Illinois, Michigan, and Missouri. The project is funded in part by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and other initiatives promoting high-speed rail.

Caltrans is scheduled to receive delivery of 42 rolling stock cars between 2015 and 2018. Another 88 cars will go to the Midwest states. The contract for 130 cars is valued at $352 million dollars. There is also the option for up to 300 cars worth nearly $900 million dollars. This new rolling stock will be built at a new US factory in Rochelle, Illinois.

Urban Transport System in Aichi

Toyota Motors has long been a champion of the green car movement, and now Toyota is hoping to revolutionize urban mobility too. In Aichi Toyota will be testing an optimized urban transportation system called “Harmonious Mobility” or Ha:mo for short. Its lofty goal is to create the optimal route for users based on current traffic conditions and the availability of public transportation. The vehicle sharing stations have been introduced at four locations in Toyota City. Currently users are able to drive Toyota Auto Body’s recently introduced COMS, a single occupant, all electric vehicle.

The test in Toyota City is separated into two projects, Ha:mo Navi and Ha:mo Ride. Ha:mo Navi aims to enable users to find the fastest, low emission transport routes. A smartphone app will provide optimal routes by combining information from known transportation sources and current traffic conditions. Another feature is Ha:mo Navi ability to link information from private and public transportation such as trains, buses, cars and taxis. The service is available now, and in the future this information will also be combined with information from the vehicle sharing stations.

Meanwhile, Ha:mo Ride will provide information on the availability of private and public transportation over short distances. For example a traveler would use the train for part of their trip then get off at a station with an available ultra-compact electric vehicle to finish the trip. Initial availability is limited to a test group of Chukyo University students and employees. http://www2.toyota.co.jp/en/news/12/10/1001.html

Nagoya Airport for Business Jets

This year in October the National Business Aviation Association held its annual conference in Orlando, Florida. Nagoya Airport has exhibited for 8 years in a row, promoting the Nagoya Airport to business aircraft users. Special Business Aircraft Terminal insures high security, privacy and is conveniently located immediately in front of the ramp area. There are ample spots and large enough parking spots to handle up to 9 Global Expresses at the same time. The Airport also markets itself as the “Gateway to Asia” by providing quick refueling stop for travelers to destinations like India and China.

At this year’s conference Aichi Prefectural Governor Mr. Ohmura sent NBAA President & CEO Ed Bolen a personal letter as a show of Aichi • Nagoya’s commitment to meet the various needs of business aircraft at an international level. He said as a base for manufacturing, there are a lot of expectations for the Aichi • Nagoya region to become a leader in Japan and the world. http://www.nagoya-airport-bldg.co.jp/en/index.html

Aerospace Expo in Nagoya

This year’s Japan International Aerospace Exhibition 2012 (JA2012) has ended. But once again it remained the largest aerospace show in Asia. Held once every four years, this year it attracted over 665 aerospace companies from 33 countries and regions and 160,000 visitors from all around the world.

Besides the main exhibition at Nagoya Port there was also a large static display at Centrair. They hosted demonstration flights of fixed-wing aircraft, including newly developed models. Professionals of all disciplines in the aircraft and space development fields, as well as many seminars and symposiums for general visitors were held during the exhibition. http://www.japanaerospace.jp/english/index.html

New EV Concept Car by Toyota

Toyota Motors announced a new concept car called the Smart INSECT based on the COMS EV produced Toyota Auto Body Co., Ltd, but it is loaded with lots of cutting edge smart technologies. The Smart INSECT connects with the driver and the surrounding environment. Smart features include location awareness, voice controls, automatic doors that open when the driver approaches, and if combined with Toyota Smart Center the INSECT can control the locks and heating and cooling of the driver’s home. http://www2.toyota.co.jp/en/news/12/09/0928.html

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