

MAGLEV TRAINS.



Maglev is a transport method that uses magnetic levitation to move vehicles without making contact with the ground.



Maglev research and development began in Germany and Japan during the early 1970's. After laboratory tests in both countries, a test track was constructed in Japan during the mid-1970's and in Germany during the mid-1980's.

New, Japanese
maglev train set a
world speed record
of 603 kilometers
per hour!



In 1990, the Minister of Transport of Japan authorized construction of the Yamanashi Maglev Test Line. It was to be the final test to confirm the practicality of maglev. The 42.8 km line between Sakaigawa and Akiyama of Yamanashi Prefecture opened in 1996 and the first running test of the MLX01 was in April of 1997.

Germany was testing their Transrapid 07 maglev at the TVE (Transrapid Versuchsanlage im Emsland) test track between Nordschleife and Sudschleife. Both test vehicles have traveled more than 400,000 km on the test track as of December 1996. The longest nonstop test has been 1,674 km in May of 1993. In June of the same year, the Transrapid 07 set a new maglev speed record of 450 km/hour. In 1991, Germany's government certified the operation of the first maglev train for the public. A maglev route was to be constructed between Hamburg and Berlin.