CBTC
Communication Based Train Control
Communication-Based Train Control (CBTC) is leading a new era of rail transit control, enhancing flexibility, reducing maintenance costs and improving interoperability. When it's time to decide on a CBTC solution, choose the experience of a proven leader in integrated Mass Transit signalling and turnkey systems.

For over a century, the worldwide family of Ansaldo STS has set the pace for developing innovative, reliable mass transit solutions. Today, Ansaldo STS is applying its unique knowledge, developing advanced rail transit control systems that build upon traditional signalling systems with a new generation of innovative technologies.

Since the inception of CBTC, Ansaldo STS’ leadership has shaped the foundation of this powerful new rail transit technology. As an initial member of WG2, Ansaldo STS helped develop the IEEF Standard 1474.1™ for CBTC performance and functions.

Ansaldo STS is also an active participant in European Union sponsored working groups, writing the standards for future Mass Transit systems in Europe.

From driver-based to driverless and unattended driving modes, and from new to refurbished lines, Ansaldo STS’ CBTC solution, based on moving block technology and applicable to virtually every form of rolling stock and guide way, overcomes the limitations of conventional fixed block systems.

Leveraging its experience in turnkey systems, maintenance and operation of driverless metros, Ansaldo STS’ CBTC solution is ideal for customers demanding high levels of performance, automation, functionality, maintainability and reliability for their transport systems.
Mixed mode operation

Ansaldo STS leverages in-depth technical expertise to provide customized solutions that meet diverse operating requirements.

Ansaldo STS’s CBTC solution fits any type of rolling stock and is scalable to meet the needs of any operator, whether they are an overlay system or a brand new line.

When used as an overlay solution, Ansaldo STS’ CBTC system allows simultaneous CBTC and non-CBTC equipped vehicles to share the same tracks. In this way, the upgrade of non-equipped vehicles can be staged to fit the operator’s needs while maintaining the highest level of safety and without causing disruptions.

Before investing in CBTC, make sure the system is dependable and built on solid and proven experience. Be sure to choose Ansaldo STS.

Zone Controller (ZC)

The Ansaldo STS Zone Controller uses safe and reliable 2 out of 3 logic to manage the movement authority limits of all trains. The ZC architecture guarantees immediate transfer of control with no impact on the availability of the system in the unlikely event of a failure. More importantly, maintenance operations can be carried out during revenue service with no impact on the performance of the system. Each ZC unit is integrated with adjacent ZC’s and communicates with interlockings and carborne controllers to guarantee that all aspects of operation and controls are safely managed. In addition, Ansaldo STS’ ZC is designed to be easily interfaced with an existing central office and/or existing interlockings (CBI or relay based).

Car-Borne Controller (CC)

Ansaldo STS’ Carborne controller uses safe, reliable and compact 2 out of 3 architecture, which vitally determines the vehicle position with the highest accuracy. This information is then relayed back to the ZC. Based on the moving authority limits received from the ZC, the CC calculates its braking curves and enforces speed restrictions. The Carborne controller also integrates two ATO processors to provide full automatic operation.

Communications

Ansaldo STS’ CBTC is designed to use industrial standard protocols, assuring interoperability with current and emerging standards. It employs commercial, off-the-shelf equipment that is easily upgradeable and maintainable. This technology provides superior bandwidth capacity, which allows real-time data, video and audio-over-IP from the field to the control center. With a click of a mouse the control room is aware of what is happening on board any vehicle or at any critical point along the line.

Maintenance

Ansaldo STS’ CBTC automated centralized maintenance server continuously receives and analyzes alarms and diagnostic data to detect failed or degraded equipment. When failures occur, a “maintenance action” is automatically generated. Problem resolution is automatically expedited, minimizing the effect on operations.

CBTC Delivers

Reliability

- Proven technology and components from a global leader in Mass Transit signalling and turnkey systems
- Compliance with the IEEE Standard 1474.1™ for CBTC Performance and Functional Requirements
- Central Office System used by major Rail and Mass Transit operations around the world
- Distributed architecture ensuring redundant operations
- Encrypted wireless communications providing secure data transmission

Flexibility

- Modular, component-based architecture that easily adapts to existing systems
- Scalable solution accommodating future growth and network modifications
- Interoperable system compatible with other supplier’s devices
- Overlay solution for upgrading existing systems
- Optimized vehicle energy consumption

Results

- Highest standard in passenger satisfaction
- Increased traffic capacity and improved on-time performance
- Improved operational headway down to 60 seconds and lower, constrained only by turnbacks and line layout
- Reduction or elimination of track circuits and signals
- Less and easier maintenance
Flexible Design and Implementation

Ansaldo STS’ CBTC solution employs an “open architecture” that is both flexible in its modular assembly and adaptable as an overlay solution to existing systems.

Ansaldo STS’ solution and customizable operation rules allow optimized headways and power consumption and react to specific operational needs, such as peak traffic flow after a special event like a sporting event or concert.

Central Office

From a single-line metro installation to a complex, multiline city network, Ansaldo STS’ Central Office subsystem is the industry’s first choice for dependable operational control.

Central Office standard functions provide advanced Computer-Aided Dispatch and Centralized Traffic Control capabilities, regulating traffic to schedule or headway, even when unexpected events occur. Allowing Central or Local operating modes with different levels of automation, the system instantly adapts to failures or anomalies within the network, protecting transit lines against outages and service disruptions.

Our CBTC references

Following the successful activation of the Ouragan project, on which Ansaldo STS has acted as System Integrator and ZC supplier, the Paris Line 3 CBTC overlay solution will be commissioned. In addition, Ansaldo STS is now in the process of supplying its CBTC solution to:

- China: Shenyang Lines 1 and 2, Chengdu Lines 1 and 2, Xian Line 2, Hangzhou Line 1;
- Copenhagen: Cityringen (unattended driverless system);
- Italy: Milan Line 4 (unattended driverless system);
- Taiwan: Taipei Circular Line (unattended driverless system);
- Ankara: Lines 1 (overlay solution), 2, 3 and 4;
- Stockholm: Blue Line (overlay solution).