

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TIAX to Develop Safer Seat and Worktable for U.S. Trains

*Projects funded by U.S. Department of Transportation
to improve passenger safety in the event of a crash*

July 20, 2005 (Cambridge, MA)—TIAX, a leading collaborative product and technology development firm, has begun work on two projects to design a safer seat and worktable for trains. The awards total \$850,000.

The projects are part of a five-year contract that TIAX received last year from the Volpe National Systems Transportation Center to investigate ways to improve the crashworthiness of rail equipment. The Volpe Center is a federal, fee-for-service organization within the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

The first project involves the design and test of a workstation table that will absorb the impact of seated passengers who collide with it during a crash. In addition to reducing head, chest, abdomen, and leg injuries, the table will be designed to allow a way out from behind the table after a crash.

The second project calls for TIAX to develop and test a three-person commuter seat capable of absorbing the impact of passengers who collide with it from behind during a crash. The seat will be designed to reduce injuries to the head, chest, and legs of occupants, keep the occupants compartmentalized, and remain attached to the railcar.

“With more than 24 million railroad passengers each year, it is critical that our train equipment is as safe as possible, while still functional and comfortable,” said Kenan Sahin, CEO and founder of TIAX. “TIAX has a long history of working with the Volpe Center to improve rail safety, and we are pleased to be part of this effort to protect passengers from potentially debilitating and life-threatening injuries.”

TIAX experts, led by Robert Rancatore, have worked with the Volpe Center for more than a decade on a variety of projects concerning rail crashworthiness. These projects include:

- The design, fabrication and installation of an improved cab car crush zone in already existing rail equipment
- The repair of previously designed coach car crush zones that have been successfully crash tested
- The design and testing of improved coach car crush zones



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- The evaluation of the crashworthiness of alternative equipment, such as articulated trainsets
- The investigation of anticlimbing designs for colliding rail equipment
- The analysis of the single car, two-car, train-to-train, and end frame passenger equipment tests conducted by the Volpe Center
- The development and improvement of tools and techniques to assist with analyzing the crashworthiness of rail equipment

About TIAX LLC

TIAX LLC (pronounced Ty-ax) is a leading collaborative product and technology development firm that accelerates innovation to help its clients create an impact in the market—and in people’s lives. It integrates business, industry, and hands-on technology expertise to transform ideas into products and problems into solutions. Formed out of Arthur D. Little's Technology & Innovation business, TIAX (www.TIAXLLC.com) builds on more than a century of breakthrough innovation and client success using collaborative R&D. TIAX was selected as a Technology Pioneer 2003 by the World Economic Forum and is ISO 9001 certified with more than 50 research and development laboratories.

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