

Bladerunner 2017 - a tethered electric road/rail hybrid



The Concept: (1) Bladerunner platform can carry an unlimited range of bodies and modules to service most freight, passenger or construction applications. An executive board room, mobile hospital or, a 'dinning car' ready to take on passengers, is shown opposite. The small electric car, held securely off the ground at the front doubles as a comfortable and well equipped driver's cab for the initial prototypes. The 'cab', protected by extending buffers, can be smoothly demounted from the platform and driven away to town for some

lunch, to stay at a hotel, to be swapped between vehicles or to travel home for the weekend. While the dualmode platform remains parked up in a secure area outside town, used by another driver or is taken to the rails and 'tagged' onto a passing convoy to travel on, unaccompanied, to another destination. (2) The steered bogies are detachable and can be serviced and



maintained separately in appropriately sized and well equipped workshops. The Bladerunner uses automatic bolsters to secure to 'swapbodies' and containers. By setting bodies down on legs above 'offline' rail tracks, wherever these rails form part of the heavy railway network a train can pickup an entire line of containers and move them over far greater distances. At the other end of the train journey the containers can again be dropped off in a line above the tracks and collected, sorted and delivered quickly by another fleet of electric Bladerunner vehicles.

(3) The PIER (plug-in en-route) transporter (below) carries and charges two decks of small electric citycars and driverless pods to create a safe and comfortable workspace, like heritage carriages with a door to each private cabin. Until loading stations exist the sidewall rolls out and support legs and column lifts are deployed. The inner windows adjacent spare bays are raised and empty carriages slide out. Basic automation is used to guide cars along each deck onto the waiting carriages and into the body before locking everything down to the floor and connecting the services.



Like eggs in an egg box the occupants are doubly protected during their journey. With Bladerunner engaged in the embedded rail tracks, moving quickly and quietly along the median of the highway, passengers are free to leave their cars and take a stroll, have a coffee or share a picnic. A wall mounted chair lift runs along each deck and moves between floors to ferry less able passengers to and from the public seating area and to the toilets on the lower deck.