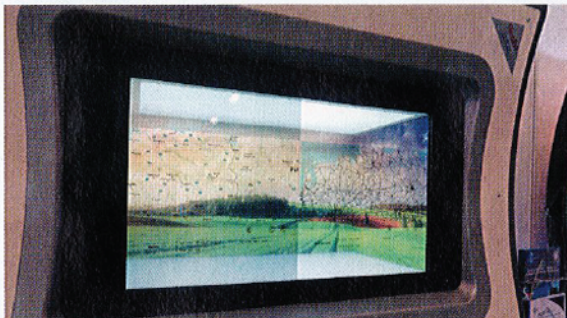


AMAZEBALLS: VISION SYSTEMS' NUANCE/ACTI-VISION

We've seen glass that turns opaque when you put an electric current through it, and we've seen clear glass that supports graphics inside. Now there is a window that can dim, change contrast and show graphics inside it. Imagine – no blinds, curtains or little seat-back TVs. It can be used for all annoying messages (so we don't have to listen to them), provide entertainment, route maps, whatever you like. You could even set it up so it shows

the view on the Settle-Carlisle line when you are going to Effingham Junction. Or even Effingham Junction when you are going to Whitby, come to that. No longer is your view constrained to what is outside the window, it could show advertising and maybe even Pokémon characters for the kids to catch. Best of all it would mean that trains would be built so seats aligned with windows; when they've done that we'll switch it off.

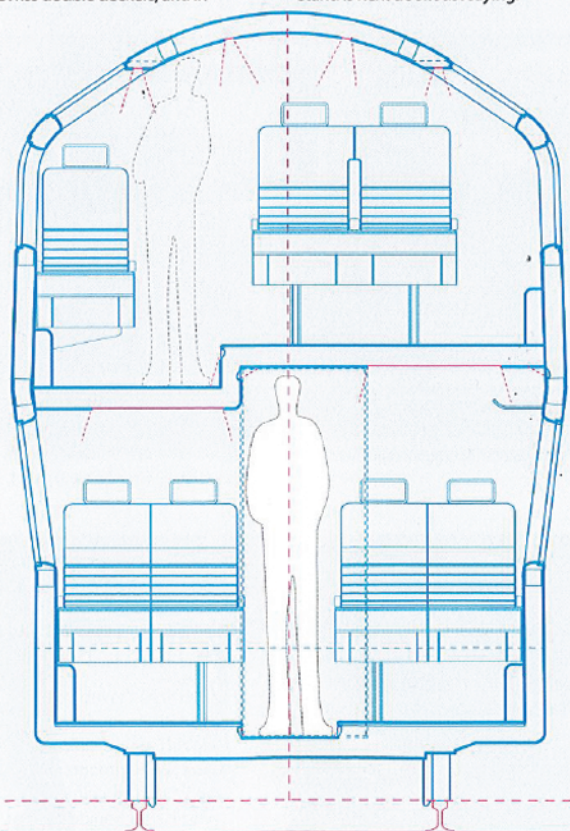


Map in the window: Vision Systems' technology on display.

DOUBLE DECKER SHOCKER - AEROLINER

Can no longer say RSSB achieved nothing with research cash. Shock No 1 – real life mock-up of double deck train in UK gauge. Shock No 2 – it is comfortable inside and has practical answers to the luggage issue, notably a 'sideboard' next to the upper deck seats that is really convenient. Shock No 3 – designers worked on Talgo and Swiss double deckers, and in

aerospace. Shock No 4 – it even includes the traction kit, located over the bogie, near the gangway and giving 280kW per wheel! Roughly double a standard EMU. 530 standard and 170 first class seats in a 200-metre train. Problems – who will build it? How do you protect the intellectual property? Don't know, but the Chinese stand is next door. Just saying.



Bright idea: cross-section through the Aeroliner double deck design for the UK. 2+1 on the top deck and 2+2 down below.



Worth thinking about: Ian samples a seat on the Aeroliner top deck.



Sideboard: a luggage shelf makes use of available space alongside the double seats on the Aeroliner top deck.