



Protocab OWNER'S CLUB

OWNERS' UPDATE

THE NEWSLETTER FOR CUSTOMERS OF ACC+ESS LIMITED- MANUFACTURERS OF THE PROTOCAB WIRELESS MODEL RAILWAY CONTROL SYSTEM

Edited for you by Tony Hagon, Director, Acc+Ess Ltd

We're now into July and three months since the last Update and signs of the beginning of the release from the lockdown that the UK has been in since March.

I had hoped to report that with the release, we would have a horizon for the development of the new products. But with the recent announcement to us that the availability of some components from China are being delayed, I am disappointed to suggest that the new products are unlikely to appear in 2020.

If you pre-ordered the new products with a deposit, and wish to have that deposit returned, please contact me on 07831 231164 or email apoc@protocab.com to arrange payment.

We will be continuing development as circumstances permit (see below), and will continue to accept new pre-orders.

Regarding the continuation of the Pilot Series, we will shortly be in a position to place an order for another batch of 0502 LCUs, and we will advise availability in a future

Update.

We are also reviewing the decision not to undertake restock of the 0201 Direct Controller, and its non-availability has stopped adoption of Protocab by new Owners for the time being.

However, we continue to receive stories from Owners who are promoting Protocab to other modellers and we are grateful for that support.

New Product Developments

0241 Touch Controller.

- A number of options have emerged for the design of the casing, and a low-cost 3D printed option is looking very attractive. It will simplify assembly of the controller.
- The 'pass-through' option, where the adopted LCUs are updated via the controller is being tested.
- The ability for the Owner to change the screen layouts and settings is yet to be completed.
- A minor design change to the motherboard is required and this will incur some upfront costs.

LCUs:

0554.

- A minor design change to the layout of the components is required.
- The 'over-the-air' update process is being developed.
- The adoption process is being finalised
- Fail-safe processes (e.g. if the 0554 loses communication with

the controller) are in development

0505.

- The design of the 0505 (as a replacement for the 0502) will result from the finalisation of the 0554 and the only significant development will be to ensure that the 0505 can provide the higher voltage output.

9610 Contact Charging and Collection System.

- The 9611 module is now being tested in 'collection' mode (i.e. where the power from the rails, for instance, is being delivered to the motor).
- The reliability of the switch between battery power and collection power is also being tested.
- The associated products in the system, e.g. the ramps and collection points fitted to the locomotive are not yet in development, but they are optional additions to the 9611.

9650 Wireless Induction Charging System.

- The main unresolved issue is the supply of suitable transmission coils that will enable between-rails installation on a 'OO' gauge layout and provide sufficient output for a reasonable recharge current.
- We continue to research new developments that will increase the separation distance between the transmitting and receiving coils.

1901 series cylindrical batteries.

There is no development required, these are off-the-shelf products, but a minimum order quantity is required by the Far East suppliers.