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COURSE BROCHURE

# Railway Traction Power Supply and Catenary Systems Training Course

7 – 11 December 2026
Amsterdam

# Railway Traction Power Supply and Catenary Systems Training Course

**Ref:** 3263_124320 **Date:** 7 – 11 December 2026 **Location:** Amsterdam **Fees:** 6200 GBP

Railway Traction Power Supply and Catenary Systems is a 1-week training course for railway and metro electrical engineers, traction power technicians and maintenance planners, built around a traction supply maintenance and fault response plan. Heavier timetables load supply equipment closer to its limits, so one feeder trip can halt a corridor. Jupiter Prime Training connects railway traction power supply and catenary systems to how substations, contact wire and return circuits behave in daily service.

## Why Railway Traction Power Supply and Catenary Systems Matter Now

Three forces shape traction supply today. Network operators are electrifying more routes and adding regenerative braking trains that push energy back into substations. Older assets sit beside new equipment, so crews must keep both running with limited track access. Passengers and transport authorities expect strong punctuality, so a single dewirement or rectifier failure becomes a public incident within minutes. Organisations that read their supply system well cut delay minutes, limit corrosion of buried structures and renew assets before failure.

## Who Gains Most from Railway Traction Power Supply and Catenary Systems

- Engineers responsible for traction substation layout, rectifier and transformer ratings and feeder arrangements
- Technicians who inspect, adjust and repair contact wire, droppers, registration arms and conductor rail
- Specialists accountable for running rail return, bonding and earthing near stations and depots
- Planners who schedule possessions, isolations and renewals across a live network

A metro or tram operator that sends its substation, overhead line and control room staff together gains most, since faults cross their boundaries.

## Railway Traction Power Supply and Catenary Systems Capabilities

Participants trace energy from grid connection to pantograph and back through the rails.

- Calculate substation spacing, feeder voltage drop and short-circuit levels — engineers sizing new sections
- Assess catenary geometry, wire wear and tension against running speed — overhead line crews setting adjustment priorities
- Measure rail-to-earth potential and stray current indicators — corrosion specialists protecting nearby utilities
- Apply feeder protection settings — protection engineers avoiding nuisance trips
- Build fault-finding sequences for dewirements, flashovers and rectifier trips — control room staff restoring service
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Design maintenance and renewal schedules within possession limits — planners balancing access and reliability

## Key Railway Traction Power Supply and Catenary Systems Terms

- Traction substation — an installation converting grid supply to the voltage and current type trains use.
- Catenary — the overhead wire system where a messenger wire holds the contact wire through droppers.
- Conductor rail — a raised rail that supplies trains through a collector shoe.
- Return circuit — the running rails and return cables carrying traction current back to the substation.
- Stray current — traction current leaking from rails into the ground, corroding buried metal.
- Neutral section — a short unpowered length of overhead line separating two supplies.

## Railway Traction Power Supply and Catenary Systems Day by Day

### Day 1: How Electrified Railways Draw Power

- Alternating and Direct Current Traction Arrangements — Choosing Supply for Route Type
- Grid Connection and Bulk Supply Points — Securing Capacity for Timetable Growth
- Train Load Profiles and Regenerative Braking — Shaping Substation Demand
- Mainline, Metro and Tram Supply Comparisons — Matching Equipment to Service Pattern
- Single Line Diagrams of Traction Sections — Reading Feeding and Sectioning Points

### Day 2: Traction Substations and Conversion Equipment

- Rectifier Transformer and Diode Rectifier Units — Rating for Peak Train Demand
- Direct Current Switchgear and High-Speed Circuit Breakers — Clearing Fault Current Quickly
- Autotransformer and Booster Transformer Feeding — Reducing Voltage Drop and Interference
- Substation Spacing and Voltage Drop Calculation — Keeping Trains Above Minimum Voltage
- Remote Control and Supervisory Alarms — Prioritising Operator Response

### Day 3: Overhead Catenary and Conductor Rail

- Contact Wire Height, Stagger and Tension — Protecting Pantograph Interaction
- Droppers, Registration Arms and Cantilevers — Inspecting Wear and Alignment
- Section Insulators and Neutral Sections — Separating Supplies Safely
- Conductor Rail Ramps, Gaps and Shrouding — Managing Shoe Contact and Staff Exposure
- Dewirement Causes and Recovery Methods — Shortening Service Disruption

## Day 4: Return Current, Protection and Fault Finding

- Running Rail Bonding and Return Cables — Keeping the Return Path Continuous
- Stray Current Monitoring and Drainage Points — Protecting Pipes and Reinforcement
- Touch Voltage Limits and Earthing at Stations — Protecting Passengers and Staff
- Feeder Protection Settings and Rate-of-Rise Relays — Separating Inrush From Faults
- Fault Location From Trip Records and Line Patrols — Restoring Supply Faster

## Day 5: Practising the Traction Supply Maintenance and Fault Response Plan

- Section Voltage Drop Case — Applying Day 2 Spacing Calculations
- Catenary Inspection Findings Exercise — Applying Day 3 Wear Limits
- Repeated Feeder Trip Investigation — Applying Day 4 Protection and Fault Location
- Possession and Isolation Scheduling — Fitting Renewals Into Track Access
- Traction Supply Maintenance and Fault Response Plan — Final Version and Peer Review

## Applying Railway Traction Power Supply and Catenary Systems After the Course

- Classify the last quarter of feeder trips as inrush, genuine fault or unexplained, then propose setting changes.
- Walk one overhead line section with the course wear limits and rank defects for the next possession.

## Railway Traction Power Supply and Catenary Systems Questions FAQ

### What is railway traction power supply and catenary systems engineering and why does it matter now?

It is the design, operation and upkeep of the equipment that feeds electric trains. It matters now because more routes are electrified and every supply failure quickly becomes a visible disruption.

### Which roles gain most from railway traction power supply and catenary systems training?

Substation engineers, overhead line technicians and maintenance planners gain most. Control room and earthing staff also benefit.

### How does railway traction power supply and catenary systems training differ from general power distribution training?

It focuses on moving loads fed through contact wire or conductor rail and returned through running rails. General distribution courses do not cover pantograph interaction or stray current.

## What do you bring back from railway traction power supply and catenary systems training?

You bring back a working plan for your section. It sets inspection intervals, protection checks and fault investigation order.

## Railway Traction Power Supply and Catenary Systems: The Way Forward

The traction supply maintenance and fault response plan first decides which feeders, wire sections and bonds receive attention in the next possession. Substation engineers, line crews and control room staff use it daily. After its first use, revisit protection settings and inspection intervals against the trip records and delay minutes actually recorded on the route.