



Goodies

Full speed ahead



Yes, they are much greener than diesel trains.

The news says hydrogen-powered trains don't produce pollution.



ON 18 September, Germany (德國) began running hydrogen-powered (氫) trains through some cities in the northern part of the country: Cuxhaven, Bremerhaven, Bremervoerde and Buxtehude. This 100km route actually used to be run by diesel trains, but the train operator likes the new ones.



The next generation of trains

Ready to roll

THE new trains run on **fuel cells** that make energy by combining hydrogen and oxygen. This means they do not create any pollution and the noise levels are low, too. They can go as far as 1,000km per tank of hydrogen, and can speed around at 140km per hour at their quickest. This gives the hydrogen trains around the same distance and speed as **diesel** trains.



Origins of the train

IN the past, trains were powered by steam that came from burning coal, and nowadays trains mostly use diesel. But a French (法國的) train-making company, Alstom, decided to make hydrogen-powered trains, and sent a model to a train **exposition** back in 2016. It was very popular and the northern part of Germany's rail company decided to buy some of those trains.

Tracks to the future

ALSTOM said other areas in northern Germany have already ordered 14 more of the trains, to be **delivered** by 2021. And **regions** in the rest of Germany are also interested. Meanwhile, France has **mentioned** that it wants at least one hydrogen train in service by 2022. Other countries, including the UK, Italy (意大利) and even Canada (加拿大), want hydrogen trains as well.



Spot four differences between the two pictures.



Answers on P12