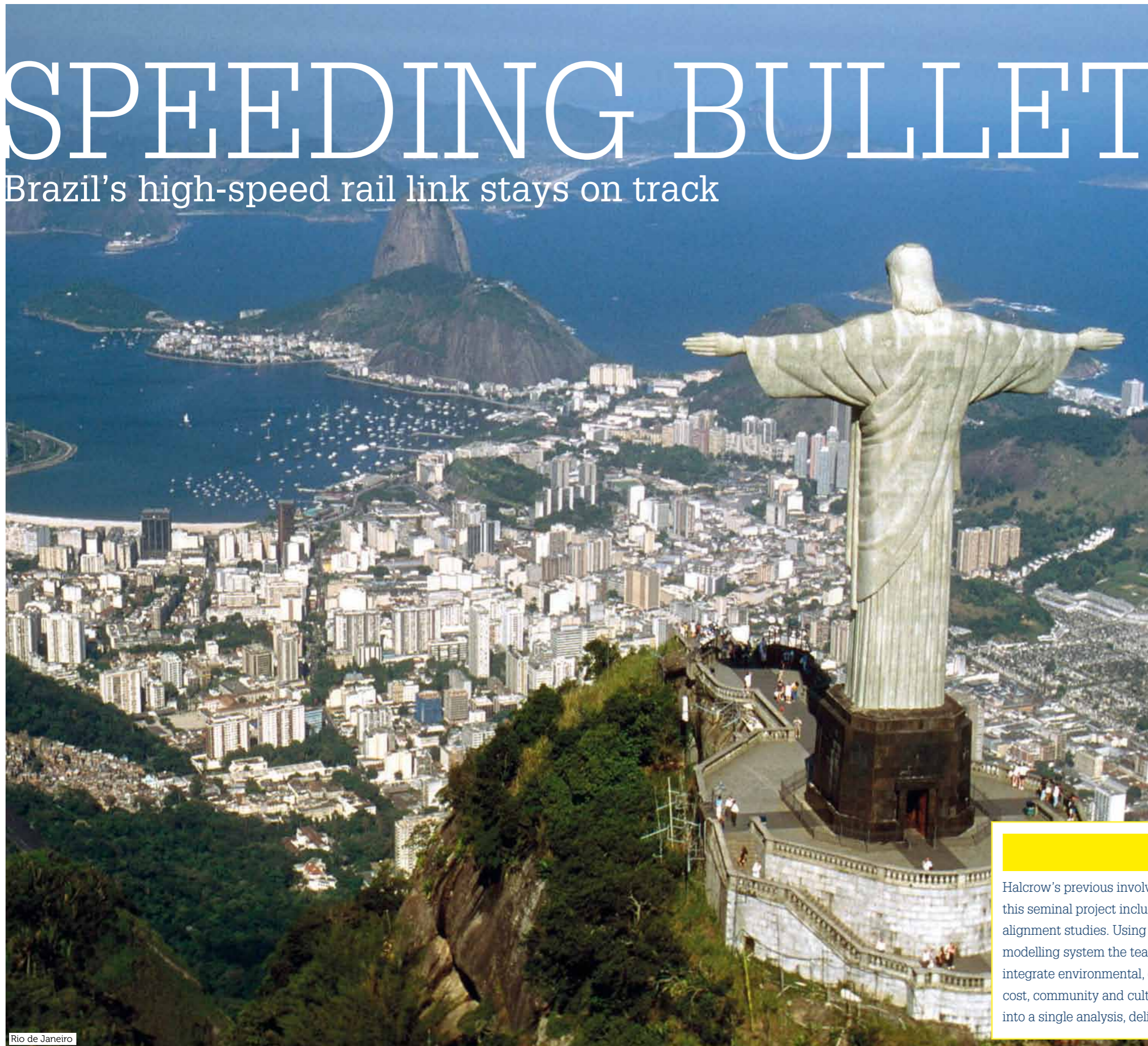


SPEEDING BULLET

Brazil's high-speed rail link stays on track



Rio de Janeiro




Every year over 7 million people travel between Brazil's two largest cities, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo – 60 per cent of them by air.

When the Trem de Alta Velocidade (TAV) high-speed rail link hurtles into life, a significant proportion of them will be coaxed from congested airports and highways, on to state-of-the-art trains running at speeds of up to 350km/h. Halcrow has played a significant role in the project to date and the company recently signed a major contract extension with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to support the Brazilian government.

"This contract builds on our previous work to produce a comprehensive set of feasibility studies and further strengthens Halcrow's relationship with the IDB and the Brazilian government," said project director Mark Jeffcott. "We look forward to working with local partners and stakeholders to help Brazil progress this pioneering project in Latin America."

As the sole technical adviser, Halcrow will be responsible for developing the TAV business model, tender preparation and bid evaluation.

Once built, the TAV will be the first dedicated high-speed rail link in the Americas. The project represents a step change in service quality, with journey times slashed from five hours by bus to just 90 minutes. It is also expected that the line will play a major role in supporting economic growth between the two cities. 

QuanTM leap

Halcrow's previous involvement in this seminal project included leading alignment studies. Using the QuanTM modelling system the team was able to integrate environmental, engineering, cost, community and cultural factors into a single analysis, delivering an

appropriate high-speed alignment within the project's demanding time frame. This success was recognised by the British Expertise judging panel at the organisation's international awards in 2009, where Halcrow's work on the project won innovation of the year.