

SPANISH passenger operator Renfe has begun testing the first of 29 variable-gauge high-speed trains for use on services from Madrid to northern Spain. The CAF-Alstom class 121 emus will be introduced in September under the Avant brand, operating over the standard-gauge high-speed line from Madrid to Valladolid, where they will switch to broad gauge for the routes to Palencia and Leon in northwest Spain, and to Burgos and Vitoria in the northeast.