PROTERIAL

# News Release

October 30, 2026
Proterial, Ltd.

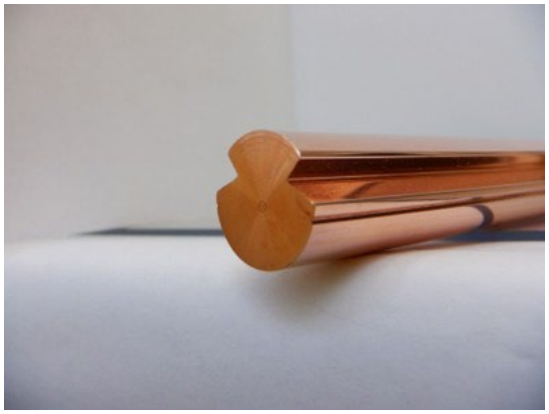
## GT-SNNS170SQ Contact Wire with Wear Grooves Indicating Service Life Expiration Won the "Electronic & Electronic Component Award" at the 2026 ‘CHO’ MONODZUKURI Innovative Parts and Components Awards

**Proterial Cable Solutions, Ltd. (Headquarters: Koto-ku, Tokyo; hereinafter "Proterial Cable Solutions"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Proterial, Ltd., received the "Electronic & Electronic Component Award" for its GT-SNNS170SQ contact wire with wear grooves indicating the expiration of the wire’s service life at the ‘CHO’ MONODZUKURI Innovative Parts and Components Awards organized by the Monozukuri Nihon Conference and The Nikkan Kogyo Shimbun, Ltd. The award ceremony is scheduled to be held on Thursday, December 10.**

### 1. Details of the award

Winning product: GT-SNNS170SQ contact wire with wear grooves indicating service life expiration
Award recipient: Proterial Cable Solutions
Award details: Electronic & Electronic Component Award at the 2026 ‘CHO’ MONODZUKURI Innovative Parts and Components Awards organized by the Monozukuri Nihon Conference and The Nikkan Kogyo Shimbun, Ltd.

### 2. Product overview



A contact wire is an electrical wire that hangs over railroad tracks to supply electricity to railroad vehicles via their pantographs, which contact the wire. It wears gradually due to the contact with the pantographs. To ensure safe operation, it is vital to measure the remaining thickness of the contact wires regularly and to manage them to ensure that the wire does not reach the status in which replacement is needed.
In the past, the remaining thickness of contact wires was managed by a variety of methods, including measurement using wear monitoring systems mounted on railroad vehicles ("vehicle-mounted systems") and workers directly measuring the wires using micrometers. Vehicle-mounted systems can measure wires while the vehicles are operating, but it is necessary to process a huge amount of data collected every day. The accuracy of micrometer measurements is high, but they must be done at night when trains are not operating. The scope of wire that can be inspected at one time is limited. For these reasons, the railroad industry sought a method of easily checking the wear status of contact wires during the day.
Developed by Proterial Cable Solutions, the contact wire with wear grooves indicating the expiration of the wire’s service life has a single groove referred to as a "wear groove" on each side of the lower part of the contact wire. The grooves are positioned to ensure that their appearance changes when the contact wire wear reaches the criterion for its replacement. This enables workers to determine whether or not replacement is necessary when visually inspecting the grooves from the ground using binoculars or similar tools.
This shape innovation has made it possible to visually inspect contact wires during the day without

using measuring equipment to determine if their condition requires that they be replaced. This reduces the costs and working hours required for wear management and facilitates systematic replacement in line with the progression of wear. Proterial Cable Solutions will work to facilitate the broad use of the GT-SNNS170SQ contact wire with wear grooves indicating the expiration of the wire's service life to help ensure the safety of railroad infrastructure and increase the efficiency of maintenance work by preventing wire breakage and extending the service life of contact wires.

Media Inquiries: Corporate Communications Dept.
https://www.cntct.proterial.com/contact/publish/inquiry_eng?g=01&c=001-01
Customer Inquiries: https://www.cntct.proterial.com/contact/publish/inquiry_eng?g=13&c=015

## ■About Proterial

PROTERIAL

The Thinking Behind our Company Name
"Proterial" combines **"pro-"** with the word **"material."**
"Pro-" represents elements of our Values:

- **Unparalleled Professionalism**
- **Unbounded Progressiveness**
- **Unleashing Proactiveness**

"Material" refers to the high-performance materials that our original technologies produce and underpinned by the three pros. With our focus on solving customer issues and bringing new levels of value, we promise to contribute to the realization of a sustainable society through the products and services that embody our philosophy.

## ■Proterial, Ltd. — Company Overview

Founded : June 1910 (The current legal entity was formally established in April 2021.)
Head office: Toyosu Prime Square, 5-6-36 Toyosu, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0061, Japan
Capital : 1,000 million yen (as of July 1, 2026)
Representative : Sean M. Stack
Representative Director, Chairperson, President, & CEO
Sales revenue: 747.3 billion yen (Term ended March 2026)
History: 1910: Founded as Tobata Foundry Co.
1937: Merged with Hitachi, Ltd.
1956: Established separately as Hitachi Metals Industries, Ltd.
2023: Renamed from Hitachi Metals, Ltd. to Proterial, Ltd.

Proterial is a participant of the United Nations Global Compact and adheres to its principles-based approach to responsible business.