

A pioneer celebrates an anniversary:

Logwin has been operating the automotive block train for 20 years

Grevenmacher (Luxembourg) – Just-in-time deliveries by rail. The first logistics block train in Europe supplying the automotive industry from a regional shipping system is celebrating its first 20 years of existence. Logwin, the logistics service provider, operated its first block train from Wuppertal to Regensburg and Landshut on 19 August 1988. This has allowed Logwin to run overnight journeys connecting important centres of industry in North Rhine-Westphalia and Bavaria by rail.

As a contract freight forwarder, Logwin covers an area of 20,000 square kilometres in North Rhine-Westphalia and bundles consignments from approximately 300 automotive suppliers. Logwin transports a wide variety of products ranging from door hinges to windscreens to a total of 25 unloading points in Bavaria. What began as a trial project with just ten wagons and a length of barely 200 metres soon developed into a real success story. The train now runs five times a week in each direction and today has a length of up to 700 metres.

"20 years ago a lot of people were sceptical", remembers Dieter Ruhnnow, Project Manager for Business Development at the Logwin business segment Road + Rail. "Yet the train as a means of transport is very suitable for just-in-time deliveries: it allows us to avoid traffic bottlenecks and we can plan transit times more accurately than by truck". Considering current transportation problems, the idea realised 20 years ago has proven to be extremely relevant today: "The block train frees us from the constraints of statutory driving and rest periods and saves us toll charges" Dieter Ruhnnow explains. "Besides, rail transport is more environmentally friendly than road transport." Logwin has also realised block trains for other industries such as paper, chemicals, drinks and consumer goods. And the demand for this type of transport system is growing. Any interested customers can test the concept at any time by enquiring about individual rail wagons.

20 years' routine - each day new

Today, Logwin is one of the few service providers on the European market using just-in-time block trains. Over the 20 years that the automotive block train has been operating, Logwin has constantly optimised and continued to extend the system. Transport in swap body vehicles has proved to be highly successful. "This makes us flexible during loading and unloading and we can avoid long truck idle times" says Dieter Ruhnnow. A further advantage of the transport containers is that goods can be loaded direct from production, which means less handling overhead. Dieter Ruhnnow continues, "This combined mode allows us to use the transport

containers virtually like interim storage". Logwin staff assumes responsibility for the subsequent transshipment of the goods. The swap bodies are packed at the factory for later delivery before they are loaded onto the train.

Whereas only two swap bodies were loaded per wagon at the beginning, Logwin today uses wagons capable of taking four. Logwin is responsible for the complete handling of a total of up to 76 swap bodies. This includes truck pick-up from the factory as well as consolidation and transshipment. All the processes are IT-supported, including shipment tracking down to the individual component using SCEM (supply chain event management) functionality. The long-standing routine in block train service also includes a high degree of flexibility, as the assignment details change daily with Logwin employees modifying schedules every day in order to take short-term changes into account - even on the day the train departs.

As rail specialist, Logwin arranges the complete operational process from transport planning and purchasing through management and clearing to elapsed time supervision and contingency planning. Using block trains, wagon groups or single wagons, Logwin ensures that goods reach their destination on time - throughout Europe and all the way to Asia.

About Logwin AG

As an external partner, Logwin AG, Grevenmacher (Luxembourg), develops a comprehensive range of logistics and service solutions for trade and industry. In 2007, the group generated sales of 2.0 billion euros and currently employs approximately 8,500 staff in 44 countries. Logwin operates in main markets worldwide and has over 400 locations across all continents. With its three business segments Solutions (customer-orientated contract logistics solutions), Air + Ocean (global air and ocean freight forwarding activities) and Road + Rail (land and special transportation activities in Central, Western and Eastern Europe), Logwin AG is one of the market leaders. Logwin AG is listed on the Prime Standard of Deutsche Boerse. The majority shareholder is DELTON AG, Bad Homburg (Germany).

The business segment Road + Rail is the specialist within the Logwin Group for efficient transport logistics. Its networks in the core markets of Germany, Austria and Switzerland connect Western and Eastern Europe with regular, scheduled transports. This gives Road + Rail customers access to comprehensive forwarding, storage and value added services in road and rail transport. In addition to access to its network, Road + Rail also provides dedicated transport concepts for individual and special shipments such as regional transport, block trains or tank and silo logistics. The 3,300 Road + Rail employees at 140 locations in 25 European countries generate annual sales of around 750 million euros.

Your contact at Logwin:**Dieter Ruhnow**

Phone: +49 06021 3434705

dieter.ruhnow@logwin-logistics.com

www.logwin-logistics.com