

Press Release

RailRunner Europe among finalists at Zukunftspreis Logistik

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The innovative rail company Rail Runner Europe was selected as one of three finalists at the renowned future prize for logistics of the Hamburg metropolitan area. The prize is awarded by the Logistik-Initiative Hamburg and the Süderelbe AG, and an expert jury chooses the winners.

The bimodal RailRunner system scored with several new technological developments, which aim to strengthen the combined rail and road traffic and increase the acceptance of rail freight services. Among these: pneumatic suspension, self-guiding axles, shock absorber systems as in road traffic, disc brakes, forklift pockets, an integrated interlocking and security system as well as an integrated ramp allowing for a fast “drive-on/drive-off” train composition.

Here an overview of the most important advantages:

- ≥20% increase of unit loads (semi-trailer) per train
- 15 to 20% cut of overall cost of logistics (traction, terminal handling, overheads) in rail freight transport
- significant reduction of environmental impact (8-10% less CO₂; ≥5 dB lower noise levels below the norm effective from 2020; lower abrasion of rails
- energy conservation of over 8% compared to other systems of combined traffic and
- RailRunner terminals, as compared with traditional terminals using cranes and/or forklifts, only require rails at ground level which enable a loading and connecting of vehicles with a fast “drive on/drive off” method

Although RailRunner missed out on the first prize at the award ceremony, the nomination is a huge success for the young company. “We are proud that RailRunner was among the three finalists. It just shows that our concept is understood as an innovation among the experts”; commented Gerhard Oswald, manager of RailRunner Europe GmbH.

The RailRunner Europe GmbH Hamburg was founded in January 2015 with the aim of introducing a new technology to the European market, developed by its parent company RailRunner NA Inc., based in Waltham Massachusetts (www.railrunner.com). This new innovative generation of bimodal vehicles uses a technology that has been successfully and reliably implemented for over 35 years in US freight traffic. There, RailRunner’s certified products have been working faultlessly for over 9 years.