



7th International Railway Summit
Steigenberger Frankfurter Hof, Frankfurt
20-22 February 2019

Future of digital rail debated at 7th International Railway Summit in Frankfurt

For Immediate Release

London, 26 February 2019 The 7th International Railway Summit, a unique 3-day networking event organised by IRITS Events in association with the International Union of Railways (UIC) concluded in Frankfurt on 22 February after a busy timetable of debate, parallel one-to-one consultation meetings, technical visits, and many formal and informal networking opportunities.

Steigenberger Frankfurter Hof hotel in central Frankfurt welcomed some 200 delegates representing 93 companies and organisations from 24 countries across the globe.

Even amidst increasing protectionism in many industrialised nations, the railway sector is making a steady transition to an international network of operations, a worldwide supply chain, multimodal partnerships and cooperation with international peers who face similar challenges. In this spirit of openness, the International Railway Summit's mission is to help operators, infrastructure owners, and national and local governments to learn about the latest trends and best practices and introduce them to innovative solutions.

The 7th International Railway Summit's conference programme, comprising keynote speeches, presentations, technical reviews, and controversial debate, tackled the theme 'How do we achieve an efficient railway system in the digital era?'. The programme was chaired by UIC's Chief Digital Officer, Francis Bédel.

Keynote speakers included Elisabeth Werner, Director of Land Transport at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE), Tobias Miethaner, Director General Digital Society, German Ministry of Transport & Digital Infrastructure, Bas Leermakers, Interim Secretary General, Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) and Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, Director General, UIC. There were also spirited panel discussions, technical reviews and contributions from a variety of influential figures within the rail sector.

During the two-day conference programme delegates discussed the impact of digital on cross-border operations, smart cities, data analytics, 5G communications, infrastructure investment, and global visions for the future of transportation.

A simultaneous programme of pre-arranged one-to-one meetings saw the first steps of many and varied potential partnerships. Some 250 one-to-one meetings took place, a total of 125 hours of focussed bilateral meetings.

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In addition, delegates were able to visit rail facilities in the city to learn about local practice and technological advances from decision-makers and innovators. Delegates were given guided tours of VGF's tram and metro infrastructure, Deutsche Bahn's digital innovation hub, Skydeck, and DB's suburban train maintenance depot.

A welcome reception and dinner on the opening evening of the summit and an offsite dinner at the acclaimed Trares Restaurant and Bar gave delegates a chance to relax and forge personal relationships beyond a purely business footing.

The 8th International Railway Summit will take place in New Delhi on 20-22 November 2019, the first time the event will be held in India. The 9th International Railway Summit will be held in Warsaw, Poland on 19-21 February 2020. Organisations interested in learning more about International Railway Summit and about how they can participate in the event can visit <http://www.irits.org> or contact the organisers, IRITS Events.

About the International Railway Summit

The International Railway Summit is an exclusive meeting of the world's key rail operators, national and local governments, and leading technical experts. Rail sector leaders receive free bespoke consultation from innovative experts, relevant to their future projects. The summit also offers a full conference programme, technical visits, and evening dinners, designed to forge lasting relationships between participants.

The 8th edition will take place in New Delhi, India on 20-22 November 2019. The 9th edition will be held in Warsaw, Poland on 19-21 February 2020. International Railway Summit is hosted by IRITS Events Ltd. To find out more visit www.irits.org.

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