

Press Release

Kapsch CarrierCom joins the European Rail Industry Association, UNIFE

At its General Assembly European Rail Industry Association (UNIFE) has officially approved Kapsch CarrierCom's application for a membership yesterday.

Vienna/Barcelona, June 23, 2017 – Kapsch CarrierCom, the expert in the field of end-to-end telecommunications solutions for railway operators, proudly announces that UNIFE accepted the company's membership application. "Becoming part of UNIFE is an impressive support for our endeavours to shape the future of railway telecommunications solutions", says Kari Kapsch, CEO of Kapsch CarrierCom.

As Kapsch Group company with headquarters in Vienna, Kapsch CarrierCom globally offers innovative, operational and mission-critical products, technologies and services for railway operators, carrier networks and airports as well as for public authorities: "Due to our experience with railway telecommunication systems around the world and our comprehensive activities around developing the next generation of future proof railway radio infrastructure, core and application solutions, I'm sure that we are an enrichment to the association", explains Michael Mikulandra, Head of Industry Appliance Next Generation at Kapsch CarrierCom.

Railway traffic without borders

UNIFE is representing the interests of the European rail manufacturing industry at international and EU level. The association's aim is to secure equal standards for railway networks all over Europe and to guarantee interoperability of the railway systems to support the Single European Railway Area (SERA).

Within the European Horizon 2020 programme Shift2Rail several UNIFE members play a significant role to achieve the goals of the research and innovation initiative (100% increased capacity, 50% increased reliability and punctuality, 5% reduction of life-cycle costs of the railway transport system). Kapsch CarrierCom is also a Shift2Rail member and is leading the technology demonstration for the adaptable communication system (Shift2Rail Innovation Programme 2).

The future of railway communications technology

One of the main topics of the Shift2Rail Innovation Programme 2 is to answer the question of the future standard for the railway communication system and how multiple radio systems could be supported while keeping the application independent from the bearer layer. Whether it will be LTE, 5G or any future wireless standard, many components are to be taken into consideration during the transformation process. To make sure the interoperability of the European railway system will be maintained and even improved in the future, telecom and signalling system suppliers must strengthen their cooperation.

Michael Mikulandra: "For being able to overcome all the challenges railway operators and their suppliers will face in future, it is necessary to work together and to guarantee a constant knowledge exchange – also with the European Commission and other involved stakeholders."

UNIFE has represented the European rail manufacturing industry in Brussels since 1992. The Association gathers nearly 100 of Europe's leading large and SME rail supply companies active in the design, manufacture, maintenance and refurbishment of rail transport systems, subsystems and related equipment. UNIFE also brings together 16 national rail industry associations of European countries. UNIFE members have an 84% market share in Europe and supply 46% of the worldwide production of rail equipment and services. UNIFE advocates its members' interests at both the European and International level – actively promoting EU rail equipment and standards within Europe and abroad.

Kapsch CarrierCom, a Kapsch Group company, is a leading global producer, supplier and systems integrator of end-to-end telecommunications solutions. The company is pursuing the mission to shape the path for railway operators and carrier networks as well as for public authorities, public transport operators and airports to leverage technologies for their specific and often mission-critical communication demands. Its portfolio comprises innovative, business and mission-critical products, solutions and services, based on in-house research and development, completed with the portfolio of selected strategic partners. The expertise of Kapsch CarrierCom covers, amongst others, solutions for the next generation of mission-critical communication, digitalization of railways, and virtualization in the communication domain.

The family-owned Kapsch company, with headquarters in Vienna, celebrates its 125th jubilee in 2017 and thus its long-term success story in the development and implementation of new technologies for the benefit of its customers.

For additional information: www.kapsch.net and www.kapschcarrier.com

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