



Press Release

First ever Smart Rail Summit: HIMA hosts international conference for users in the railway industry

(Bruehl, April 17, 2018)

From April 11-12, 2018, HIMA has hosted for the first time a conference for users in the global railway industry – the Smart Rail Summit. During the invitation-only event, about 100 participants from more than 20 countries discussed the current and future challenges of rail safety technology. The main question was how open, commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) solutions can support users in the railway industry in securing decisive competitive advantages with innovative business models.

The two-day conference, held in the Radisson Blu Hotel in Mannheim, Germany, under the banner “Off the Shelf, On the Rise”, reflected the growing significance of open safety systems in the railway industry. On first day, the focus was on the trends driving the railway industry worldwide. In that respect, digitization was regarded as particularly crucial for future development. The challenges of this complex issue include autonomous trains, increasing networking, and growing cybercrime. Social and economic trends, such as urbanization, changing transportation requirements and increasingly stringent environmental regulations, were also outlined.

All of these factors are presently leading to a change in the railway industry, which is massively investing in the expansion and modernization of infrastructure and is driving digitization worldwide. In response to the most urgent trends, executives from HIMA presented the solutions the safety specialist offers to assist the railway industry in developing innovative and future-proof business models while being compliant with the highest CENELEC safety standard (SIL4) at the same time.

The second day was fully dedicated to applications. Leading railway companies presented use cases where COTS technology already forms the basis for future-ready, cost-effective and cyber-secure solutions. The various best practices demonstrated that compared to

proprietary systems, deployment of standard safety controllers gives users unmistakable added value in terms of profitability, handling and future-proofness.

Along with the two conference days packed with a wealth of opportunities for networking and knowledge transfer, the supporting program of the Smart Rail Summit provided an informal evening event in the prestigious Eichenstolz event location near Mannheim. Furthermore, at the end of the first day guest speaker Ilya Grzeskowitz talked about change management in an entertaining manner. The goal was to prepare the attending experts for the imminent change process in the railway industry under the headline of “Changing the Game.” Using humorous anecdotes, striking practical examples and exciting insights, he showed the audience the best way to deal with minor and major changes in their everyday life.

“The interest in the Smart Rail Summit was enormous and the event has been fully booked within just a few days,” says Sedat Sezgün, Group Vice President Business Segment Rail at HIMA. “Our first-ever held user conference has shown that the trend in the railway industry is clearly heading away from proprietary safety systems and towards open standard solutions. Feedback from the users clearly indicates that with COTS and HIMA as a strong partner, the railway industry is well prepared to meet the challenges of digitization.”



Image 1: Sedat Sezgün, Group Vice President Business Segment Rail at HIMA.

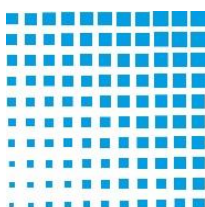


Image 2: At the Smart Rail Summit organized by HIMA, about 100 participants from more than 20 countries discussed the current and future challenges of safety technology in the railway industry.



Image 3: The two-day conference, under the banner “Off the Shelf, On the Rise”, reflected the growing significance of open safety systems in the railway industry.

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110 Years
Transforming
Safety

2018 is a special anniversary year for HIMA. For many decades, the safety specialist – founded in 1908 – has played a major role in shaping safety standards and has driven innovations to develop the market for industrial safety. Drawing on 110 years of experience, HIMA develops solutions for the digital industrial age and is ready for the challenges of the future.

About HIMA

The HIMA Group is the world's leading independent provider of smart safety solutions for industrial applications. With more than 35,000 installed TÜV-certified safety systems worldwide, HIMA qualifies as the technology leader in this sector. Its expert engineers develop customized solutions that help increase safety, cyber security and profitability of plants and factories in the digital age. For over 45 years, HIMA has been a trusted partner to the world's largest oil, gas, chemical, and energy-producing companies. These rely on HIMA solutions, services and consultancy for uninterrupted plant operation and protection of assets, people and the environment. HIMA's offering includes smart safety solutions that help increase safety and uptime by turning data into business-relevant information. HIMA also provides comprehensive solutions for the efficient control and monitoring of turbomachinery (TMC), burners and boilers (BMC) and pipelines (PMC). In the global rail industry, HIMA's CENELEC-certified SIL4 COTS safety controllers are leading the way to increased safety, security and profitability. Founded in 1908, the family-owned company operates from over 50 locations worldwide with its headquarters in Bruehl, Germany. With a workforce of approximately 800 employees, HIMA generated a turnover of approximately €126 million in 2016. For more information, please visit: www.hima.com

Press contact HIMA Headquarters

HIMA Paul Hildebrandt GmbH
Daniel Plaga
Group Manager Global PR

Albert-Bassermann-Straße 28
68782 Bruehl
Phone: +49 6202 / 709-405
Cell : +49 172 / 3224 944
E-Mail: d.plaga@hima.com

Press contact HIMA Americas

HIMA Americas Inc.
Nicole Pringal
Sr. Marketing and Public Relations Manager

5353 W Sam Houston Parkway N., Suite 130
Houston, Texas 77041, USA
Phone +1 713 482 2069
Cell +1 713 876 9828
E-Mail: npringal@hima-americas.com

Agency press contact / Please send voucher copies to

Mark Herten, Technical Publicity
Post Office Box 12 55, 21232 Buchholz
Phone: +49 (0)4181 968 09820
Mobile: +49 (0)1520 748 3901
E-Mail: mherten@technical-group.com

Carsten Otte, Technical Publicity
Phone: +49 (0)4181 9680 09880
Mobile: +49 (0)1520 915 8629
E-Mail: cotte@technical-group.com