Press Release

HIMA helps make level crossings safe in South Africa

(Bruehl, 23 August 2018)

HIMA, the world's leading independent provider of smart safety solutions, has helped ERB Technologies save money and increase safety in an advanced electronic level crossing system. Using HIMatrix safety systems from HIMA, it is South Africa's first COTS (Commercial-Off-The-Shelf) level crossing to meet CENELEC SIL 4. Following a successful level crossing pilot project near Rosslyn, South Africa, the company plans to roll out this technology across South Africa's rail network in a bid to make level crossings safer.

A recent report by the country's Railway Safety Regulator (RSR) indicates that inadequate level crossing signage one of the main attributes to the recent 25% increase in fatalities and injuries. To address this, RSR is currently updating the (South African National Standard) SANS 3000 technical standard for level crossings, which was introduced in 2012. In order to guarantee radical safety improvements, the new -2-2-1 version refers to European IEC standards and CENELEC.

Responding to these changes, ERB Technologies approached HIMA to work with them in developing a new safety system for level crossings to replace the old relay-based system. The ERB evoCROSS is based on HIMA's HIMatrix safety system, which the company found to be the market's best-suited product, meeting all the requirements.

The level crossing for the pilot project is right in front of the main entrance of a busy factory. Previously it was protected by a stop sign only. Although train traffic is low, in the order of 1 to 2 trains per day, its use by vehicle traffic and pedestrians is very heavy. During a recent factory upgrade, the company initiated an upgrade to the level crossing.

Though the physical layout of the level crossing is complex, with 4 lanes of traffic, a pedestrian rail crossing and a pedestrian road crossing, the newly adopted traffic light

system is very effective – this is a very new requirement in South Africa, hence its uniqueness to the pilot project.

The ERB/HIMA system offers many advantages to rail operators. While being cost-effective and readily available due to its COTS (Commercial-Off-The-Shelf) status, the HIMA hardware's SIL 4 (CENELEC) certification meets EN 50126, 50128 and 50129. This certification is backed by a proven track record in rail and other industries. In addition, the RSR was involved during the complete project lifecycle.

Operators also enjoy great flexibility and freedom, as the HIMA system complies with open standards for easy interface with another vendors' equipment, while avoiding vendor lock in. The system is modular and configurable and, with an MTBF (Mean Time Between Failure) of over 100 years, it is highly reliable, helping to reduce costs throughout the operating life.

Further savings are achieved as the system is easier and faster to troubleshoot, while being easy to maintain – unlike relay systems, which required extensive physical work. During operation, Sequence of Events can also be automatically recorded. Reliability is further enhanced through ERB Technologies' extremely sturdy vandal-resistant steel cabinet design, which features a double skin and forced air cooling.

Commenting on the project, Brad Ogilvie, Sale Manager for Sub-Sahara Africa at HIMA said: "Full SIL 4 compliance and COTS availability, enabled ERB to reduce costs, while ensuring environmental resilience, high reliability, full modularity and easy, open standard interfacing to other vendors' equipment."

Images

Image 1: While being cost-effective and readily available due to its COTS status, the HIMA hardware's SIL 4 (CENELEC) certification meets the EN 50126, 50128, and 50129 standards.

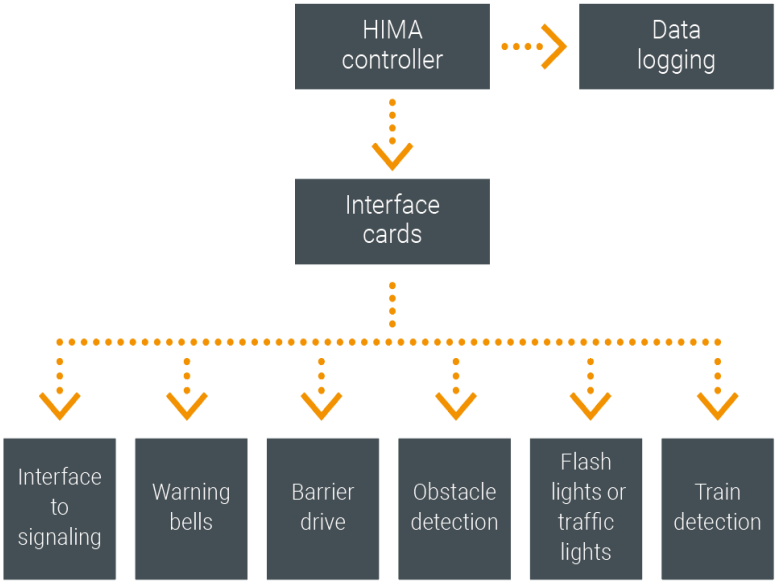

Image 2: The solution from HIMA provides the possibility of visualization of the system status via a SCADA system.

Image © HIMA Paul Hildebrandt GmbH

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

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