

## Press release

### Johannes Nicolin receives European Railway Award 2013

For the first time since 2007, the European Railway Award recognizes outstanding technical achievement in Rail Freight.

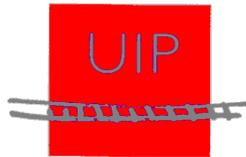
On February 26 in Brussels, the European Railway Award honored the technical achievements of Dr.-Ing. Johannes Nicolin, who has significantly contributed to the technical development of intermodal freight wagons. As Technical Director of AAE, a leading European freight rail leasing company, Dr. Nicolin has always focused on improving freight competitiveness and optimizing performance, and was driven by the need to increase customer value through optimized maintenance and enhanced handling efficiency.

Dr.-Ing. Nicolin has always been a valuable supporter of international harmonization in freight technology and provided expert input towards technical requirements, rules and standards.

The recognition that innovation is possible also in Rail Freight brings the Rail Sector a step forward towards achieving a Single European Railway Area, and acknowledges the role of Rail Freight as an important puzzle piece in the framework of legislation and innovation. Reliable, efficient, and interoperable wagon traffic is fundamental in order to meet customers' needs and expectations. Rail freight in Europe should become even more customer oriented and focus on increasing European and global trade flows, via further market liberalization, environmental awareness, and innovation that support Rail Freight transports towards more competitiveness.

However, developing Rail Freight towards 2050 requires the support not only of the whole Railway Industry but also of the European policy makers through EU initiatives for innovation, retrofitting, maintenance and respective funding. UIP and ERFA will continue their work to ensure that Rail Freight is not overlooked and remains a high priority on the agenda for the 4<sup>th</sup> Railway package and any innovation related initiatives.

***UIP and ERFA personally appreciate Dr. Nicolin's devotion to rail freight and congratulate him for his achievement and merit!***



## **Dr.-Ing. Johannes Nicolin – Laureate “Technical Award”**

Dr. Nicolin's commitment to rail started when working for the automobile industry, but choosing to pursue his studies in Mechanical Engineering in rail vehicles. Following his Doctorate degree and with an extensive experience as a Lecturer in Structural Elements and a Researcher at the Institute for Materials and Rail Vehicles RWTH Aachen, Dr. Nicolin led and directed for over a decade the development and construction of wagons and bogies at Talbot Wagon Manufacturing. He joined AAE as a Technical Director in 1995 and acted as Managing Director for AAE Engineering s.r.o in the Czech Republic, currently known as PVF-S s.r.o. Today he is still deeply involved in rail vehicles activities across Europe.

### **Contacts:**

#### **UIP – International Union of Wagon Keepers a.i.s.b.l.**

Founded in 1950, the UIP – International Union of Wagon Keepers, with its seat in Brussels, is the umbrella association of national associations from fourteen European countries, thus representing more than 250 keepers with approximately 180.000 freight wagons, performing 50 % of the rail freight tonne-Kilometres throughout Europe. The UIP represents the members' concerns at international level. By means of research, lobbying and focused cooperation with all stakeholders and organisations interested in rail freight transportation, the UIP wants to secure on the long term the future of rail freight transport.

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**ERFA (European Rail Freight Association)** was set up with the 1st Railway Package in Brussels in July 2002 to represent the interests of the new independent and private 'open access' rail freight operators. ERFA is EU Representative Body. Today, the association comprises 30 members (21 rail freight operators, wagon keepers, service providers, forwarders as well as 9 national rail freight associations) from 16 countries in wider Europe. ERFA represents more than 800 locomotives and 55.000 freight wagons within the direct members. ERFA's main objective is to make the rail freight market fit for competition so that rail freight can expand its market share, attract new investments, become more innovative and create jobs. By doing so, ERFA contributes to a highly competitive EU rail freight market. ERFA's key mission to achieve its objective is to remove all legal, technical, social and administrative barriers that prevent its members from rapidly establishing international cross-border freight services, using all rail infrastructures regardless of who manages them, and to encourage any developments likely to enable all rail companies to flourish on this market, regardless of their size or age.

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