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**Schunk Railway Technology receives IRIS certificate**

On 24 September, the IRIS certificate will be presented to Schunk Bahn- und Industrietechnik GmbH at the Innotrans in Berlin. IRIS is a quality evaluation standard for railway manufacturers and their suppliers which is valid worldwide. As a result, Schunk is now one of 75 companies to fulfil the new standard so far.

This year, the certificate confirming compliance with the new quality standard of the railway industry, IRIS, will be presented to Schunk Bahn- und Industrietechnik GmbH (SBI) in the framework of the Innotrans trade fair for traffic engineering in Berlin. IRIS is the abbreviation for International Railway Industry Standard. Since 2006 IRIS has governed those requirements for development, production, maintenance, installation and customer service of railway manufacturers and their suppliers which are valid internationally. Since its adoption companies in the railway industries are increasingly asking for an IRIS certificate from their suppliers as a condition for further co-operation.

“We are very pleased about the smooth certification process and are proud to be one of the 75 companies fulfilling the new standard out of a total of 3500 suppliers. This will strengthen our position on the market considerably“, Stefan Schaaf, managing director of SBI Wettenberg, explains.

The new standard, revision 01 of which entered into force in January 2008, was prepared by the association of the European railway supply industry UNIFE in co-operation with leading railway system manufacturers. IRIS is based on the requirements of DIN EN ISO 9001:2000 and addresses railway-specific regulations in detail.

With the certification by DQS, a German company for the certification of management systems, the sister companies are now included in the UNIFE supplier portal and can, hence, further strengthen the successful business relationships with their customers.

The smooth certification process was also aided considerably by the long-standing and scrupulous implementation of all the requirements of DIN EN ISO 9001:2000 at both sites. The supplementary IRIS requirements which still had to be implemented, posed complex yet not irresolvable tasks for both corporate divisions.

“On account of the close co-operation of SBI in Wetttemberg and Salzburg, we were able to issue the certificate for both sides as early as in September“, Christof Höbing, auditor of DQS, emphasised.

Schunk Bahn- und Industrietechnik GmbH is a development partner for all questions involving power transmission technology in the industries and the railway sector. The delivery program of SBI offers comprehensive customer-specific solutions in the fields of design, production, assembly, distribution and applications engineering.

SBI is part of Schunk Group, a corporate group operating internationally with a product and service range in the corporate divisions of materials (carbon technology and ceramics), Weiss Technik (environmental simulation and air-conditioning technology), sintered metal technology and sonosystems (ultrasonic welding technology). The company, which was established by Ludwig Schunk and Karl Ebe in Fulda in 1913, generated sales to the amount of EUR 780 million in 2007. The group comprises 60 operative subsidiaries. Schunk is represented in 26 countries and employs a staff of approx. 7,900 worldwide.

The Union des Industries Ferroviaires Européennes (UNIFE) is the association of the European railway industry, based in Brussels.

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