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Metro Madrid set to drive with Schunk pantographs as of 2009

From 2009, Schunk Bahn- und Industrietechnik GmbH (SBI), the leading manufacturer of power transmission technology in the industries and the railway sector, will equip the trains of the Madrid metro with pantographs.

The low overall height, the extremely compact construction and high power transmission have convinced the railway operators from the Spanish metropolis that this is the solution for them.

A high lateral rigidity, individually suspended sliding slips, low total weight, low service requirements and hydraulic pantograph damping are further essential features. In a customer-specific development for the Madrid metro the Schunk pantographs have now been optimally adjusted to the desired conditions of use. With regard to the requirements in the Spanish metropolis, the special climatic conditions, the respective route profile and the existing infrastructure had to be taken into account.

At Innotrans 2008, the IRIS-certified company presents its current product range consisting of pantographs, third-rail shoe gears, grounding contacts, carbon brushes, sliding slips, brush holders and conductor lines. The highlights of the product range include the pantographs, which have been developed further for the special requirements of the metro trains and accomplish the design technology feat of achieving a space-saving design while ensuring a high and uniform power transmission at the same time.

Schunk delivers models characterised by low wear and a low strain on the contact wire. Moreover, the pantographs have a modular structure and can be individually adjusted as a result of this.

Schunk Bahn- und Industrietechnik specialises in individual customer requirements and is able to implement mini-series as well as large-scale productions on a high level of design technology. With a global network of marketing and distribution companies, Schunk has ideal preconditions for fulfilling the international market requirements. Schunk has its own production facilities for pantographs in Austria, Sweden, Spain, the USA, India, China and Australia.

Pantographs establish the electric contact between the contact wire and the vehicle and ensure a reliable supply with electric energy. They are exposed to high mechanic loads and are developed for diverse contact line systems and speeds. Depending on the customer's requirement, establishing contact with and depositing on the overhead line is effected via an electric or pneumatic drive.

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). In the year 2007, the company, which was established in 1913, generated sales totalling EUR 780 million. The group comprises 60 operative subsidiaries. Schunk is represented in 26 countries and employs a staff of approx. 7,900 worldwide.

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