

TÜV SÜD

Interview with Dr Martin Webhofer, CEO OF TÜV SÜD Rail GmbH

Q: Dr Webhofer, thank you for joining us today. Could you start by giving us an overview of TÜV SÜD's participation at InnoTrans 2024? What makes this event significant for TÜV SÜD?

Martin Webhofer: Thank you for having me. InnoTrans 2024 is a premier event for the railway industry and TÜV SÜD is proud to participate as a key player in this sector. This event provides an excellent platform for us to showcase our commitment for safety and security in railways.

Q: TÜV SÜD positions itself as the industry's partner for safety in an increasingly digitalised railway transport. Can you elaborate on how TÜV SÜD ensures safety amidst this digital transformation?

MW: Of course. At TÜV SÜD, we leverage our solid knowledge and experience to support suppliers and operators in delivering safe and secure railway transport solutions amid digital transformation and to support manufacturers entering new markets. TÜV SÜD has a robust foundation that is characterised by in-depth and broad knowledge as well as many years of experience. Precisely this stability and continuity provide an excellent basis to support our clients in integrating innovations without compromising safety. As an example, our anti-slide simulator exemplifies our commitment by demonstrating wheel slide protection testing and showcasing how advanced testing methods can make homologation more efficient. Another example is digital automatic coupling (DAC), which automates rail coupling to enhance speed, capacity and process flow at terminals and railway yards, supporting the use of heavier, longer and faster freight trains.



*Dr Martin Webhofer
CEO of TÜV SÜD Rail GmbH*

Moreover, our rail cyber security services include comprehensive assessment, testing and certification, supporting in this way risk minimisation, effective risk communication and a better protection against cyber attacks.

Q: One of the core topics at the exhibition is sustainability. How does TÜV SÜD support sustainability in rail transport?

MW: TÜV SÜD Rail actively contributes to the sustainable transport transition with its services in the railway sector. We are one of the first TIC companies certifying hydrogen trains and batteries. And with our new concept 'Green on Track' we develop, together with our clients, a comprehensive assessment methodology for railway stakeholders to track their sustainability performance. Internally, we of course minimise the negative environmental impact of our

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business activities. We are committed to creating long-lasting services with recognisable added value for companies and society and value long-term customer and employee loyalty, stable partnerships and efficient processes. In this context, innovation and entrepreneurship are encouraged, supported and lived by our employees, as they are the key to sustainable development.

Q: Urban rail is another key topic. Could you explain how TÜV SÜD is contributing to this area?

MW: In the urban rail sector, TÜV SÜD is committed to enhancing safety, efficiency and reliability through several key initiatives.

For communications-based train control (CBTC) metro systems, we provide comprehensive inspection and testing services essential for both new constructions and upgrades. CBTC systems use telecommunications between trains and track equipment for precise traffic management and infrastructure control, allowing for more accurate train positioning than traditional signalling. This results in safer and more efficient railway traffic management, enabling metros to reduce headways while improving safety. Our expertise ensures these systems meet stringent IEEE 1474 safety standards.

Additionally, our Training for Operations Managers (TOM) programme is designed for railway companies initiating or upgrading passenger operations. The program benefits both experienced participants and those from diverse career backgrounds, covering crucial aspects of railway system safety and efficiency. This ensures operations managers are effectively trained to enhance service quality and operational cost-effectiveness.

We also focus on monorail systems, ensuring their safe and efficient operation. Monorails are increasingly popular in urban environments due to their ability to navigate tight spaces and their lower environmental impact compared to traditional rail systems.

Overall, TÜV SÜD's involvement in urban rail reflects our commitment to advancing industry safety and efficiency through a broad range of services and innovations.

Q: This year marks '20 years of TÜV SÜD Rail GmbH' and 50 years of experience in the railway sector. How have these milestones influenced TÜV SÜD's approach to safety and innovation?

MW: These milestones are a testament to our longstanding commitment to the railway industry. Over the years, we have built a rich legacy of safety and innovation expertise, which serves as a strong foundation for our future endeavours. We take pride in our history and use it to drive forward-looking solutions that meet the evolving needs of the industry.

Q: Looking ahead, what are TÜV SÜD's goals and vision for the future of railway transport?

MW: Our mission is to enable manufacturers, operators and authorities to ensure safe, secure as well as reliable and efficient railway – based on in-depth technical understanding. We are the premium partner of the railway industry for rolling stock homologation, as we offer both physical testing in our own test tracks, as well as inspection and certification services from the component to the whole vehicle, for Germany as well as for international markets. For track infrastructure and signalling technology, we are able to support manufacturers and turnkey contractors both on subsystem and on integration level.

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InnoTrans 2024

24 - 27 September 2024 | Berlin
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