

The Xrail Alliance to boost the European Wagonload offer

Munich, 04 June 2019. Xrail, the Alliance of seven leading rail freight companies, initiates an industry change for the European Single Wagonload (SWL) by rolling out international Capacity Booking across all partners' networks until 2021. The improved offer provides a more sustainable solution for the growing transport volumes in Europe.

At today's panel discussion with rail freight customers, the Alliance partners announced that the full roll-out of their common Xrail Capacity Booking (XCB) initiative starts with the ongoing implementation at DB Cargo. Four of the partners, CFL cargo, Lineas, RCG and SBB Cargo, are already using the system. Fret SNCF, who just recently joined the Alliance, plans to roll out XCB in 2021.

"The seven Xrail partners realize a major step for the European Wagonload by providing common European Capacity Booking", states Dr. Roland Bosch, CEO DB Cargo.

The full XCB roll-out by DB Cargo and Green Cargo is foreseen for end of 2020. By then, already the majority of international SWL customers will benefit from XCB features:

- Capacity-checked international trip plans with an Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA)
- Improved stability and punctuality due to "production according to the trip plan"
- Improved transparency with seamless, end-to-end Track & Trace
- Enhanced information like automatic delay alerts and new ETA in case of incidents

Joachim Thonagel, Director Logistics Distribution UPM Communication Papers, comments: *"XCB is clearly addressing some of the most important issues for SWL customers. The foreseen improvements are fundamental prerequisites for the future success of SWL in Europe."*

Fret SNCF, latest member of the Xrail Alliance, plans to implement domestic SWL capacity booking and connect to XCB until mid-2021. The market coverage of the improved Wagonload offer will thereby reach about 2/3 of all European SWL traffic.

Thierry Juret, Head of Rail Transport ArcelorMittal, remarks: *"Single Wagonload is a key element in our supply chain, customers require a competitive international transport offer, which is not only available for large volumes or on selected high-frequency routes".*

In a next step, the seven Xrail partners will further innovate the international SWL beyond XCB, and make it more customer-friendly, attractive and efficient. A further enhanced European SWL acts as a crucial backbone for the mandatory modal shift from road to rail.

Sassan Rabet, CEO Xrail, concludes: *"The seven partners strongly believe in the future of European Wagonload. They will therefore continue to work hard on improving its competitiveness – boosted by the Xrail Alliance".*

About Xrail

Xrail – the European Single Wagonload Alliance. The production cooperation consists of CFL cargo, DB Cargo, Fret SNCF, Green Cargo, Lineas, Rail Cargo Group and SBB Cargo. The seven members aim to make the European Single Wagonload a more competitive and more sustainable alternative to road transport by implementing capacity-managed networks linked together through the Xrail Capacity Booking (XCB) broker.

Xrail plays a crucial role in driving innovation and standardization for the International Single Wagonload by developing cross-border production concepts and seamless, smart IT solutions. The Alliance thereby focuses on the improved operational collaboration among the partners. Commercial elements of Single Wagonload traffic are outside its scope and remain in the direct responsibility of the Alliance members.

Xrail AG is the coordinating legal entity of the Alliance with headquarters in Basel, Switzerland.

For more information about Xrail and European Wagonload traffic please visit: www.xrail.eu

Alliance members:

