

VIWAS IN A NUTSHELL

ViWaS (Viable Wagonload Production Schemes) is a 3-years research and development project co-financed by the European Commission under the Seventh Framework Program. The Project aims at researching and providing operational solutions capable of strengthening the efficiency and competitiveness of single wagon/group of wagons load rail traffic.

During the VIWAS Project lifetime the Consortium Partners are joining their resources for pursuing the following objectives:

- Support the European Commission White Paper initiative for modal shift to Rail
- Maximise the points of strength of single wagon/group of wagons load rail transport, banking on the driving forces of a new Rail initiative from now up to 2050;
- Capture new markets through enhanced competitiveness of the system;
- Organize “Last-Mile” operations from Rail Hubs & Terminals;
- Improve the wagons productivity through a much faster turn-around, better equipment utilization and management;
- Improve system flexibility and efficiency;
- Raise transport service quality and reliability.

EXTRACT FROM KICK OFF PRESS RELEASE

Hannover, September 10, 2012. The starting signal for the **ViWaS (Viable Wagonload Production Schemes)** European research and development Project, was given today in Hannover, Germany. Ten European Companies and research Institutions from the areas of rail transportation and logistics joined efforts for developing solutions for single wagon/group of wagons load Rail traffic. The Project objective is to promote best practices and achieve innovations in the operational management of this important sector of Rail freight which in the last few years has been constantly declining. HaCon is the ViWaS Project Leader having the responsibility of coordinating the Partners' efforts and resources for reaching the Project objectives.

The dimensions developed by this Project research for reversing the reduced market share of the European single wagon/group of wagons traffic are the followings:

- The operating costs ;
- The services quality standards;
- The performance consistency;
- The adaptation to modern Supply Chain requirements;

One has to appreciate that the single wagon/ group of wagons loads represent an indispensable part of the transport chain. In particular the chemical, the steel, the automotive, the forest, the coal, the cereal/food industries are regular users of these services in economy of scale.

ViWaS Project is instrumental for promoting a rejuvenation of this important Rail freight sector by adapting it to the requirements of modern logistics Supply Chains ensuring its viability, competitiveness and sustainability in the long term.

New concepts and developments are aiming at introducing improvements in multiple areas. These include the modernization of the last mile distribution, a higher degree of rolling stock utilization, shorter transport times as well as an increased quality of transportation services and information. Other areas of interventions are the introduction of hybrid locomotives for covering gaps. Innovative distribution techniques from Yards and Terminals together with the utilization of advanced wagons and swap bodies based on the Wascosa flex freight system[®] are introduced and tested.

Information Technologies combined with tags for equipment monitoring are instrumental for Track & Trace monitoring allowing the proper management of the wagons whilst in transit.

These operational developments are going to be demonstrated “on the field” business cases where the movement of cargoes and wagons are taking place on the Rail tracks. The emerging results allow the ViWaS Consortium to draw conclusions and formulate strategies for future market uptake developments.

The challenge represented by the need to make the single wagon/group of wagons traffic more viable and competitive in a long term horizon is fundamental for the renaissance of the whole Rail freight industry. Niklas Galonske, the Project leader for HaCon has taken up this ambitious challenge through the ViWaS Project development.

The ViWaS Project Partners

The ViWaS Consortium includes vital competencies such as Research, Academia, ICT information, Technology and Wagons Providers, Transport Consultancy, Rail Operators, Hubs and Terminals.



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