

Press Release

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Knorr-Bremse: Subsidiaries Kiepe Electric and IFE to refurbish Vienna Stadtbahn mass transit cars

Operators Wiener Linien GmbH & Co KG have commissioned Kiepe Electric and IFE to refurbish 78 Stadtbahn cars for mass transit in Vienna. The measures will bring the cars into line with current technology and ensure that they continue to provide safe, reliable, customer-oriented service for many years to come.

“We are particularly pleased about this interesting project because it allows two expert members of the Knorr-Bremse Group to apply their know-how to the benefit of the customer,” says Dr. Peter Radina, Member of the Management Board of Knorr-Bremse Rail Vehicle Systems. “The Knorr-Bremse Group sees itself as a global full-line supplier of innovative and reliable solutions themed around rail applications and covering the entire product life cycle – which is precisely where, in this case, we see the added value for our customer.”

The refurbishment covers replacement of the drive units of the low-floor, articulated motor cars. This involves installing a modern air-cooled converter and the innovative Kiepe Electric on-board power converter from the new 600 generation, which is lighter and more compact, and equipped with advanced control technology. Also up for replacement are the vehicle control system and the tachograph. Refurbishment of the first four cars has just been completed and the remaining 74 cars are to follow by the end of 2019. The converter’s job is to supply the vehicle with the necessary electric power. As the number of different on-board consumers increases driven by demand for greater comfort and safety, the market for converters offers substantial potential for global growth.

At the same time, sister company IFE has been commissioned to equip the 468 doors with new electric door drives. IFE service staff are handling the door conversion measures and recommissioning on site at the customer’s depot. It takes four employees around two and a half days to bring each car to turnkey readiness for customer handover, complete with approval by technical inspectorate TÜV. Currently, almost half the doors have already been refurbished and the entire door upgrade is due for completion by the end of 2017.

Today more than 600,000 IFE entrance systems are in daily use worldwide, opening and closing up to 50 million times a day. Quality, safety and reliability are assigned top priority, because even a single door that fails to operate correctly can cause substantial delays. The entrance systems in trams, light rail vehicles, metro cars, regional commuter trains and high-speed trains are designed to make boarding and alighting as easy as possible for passengers and at the same time to ensure safe and reliable operation.

Caption: The refurbishment measures are designed to get the low-floor cars, which entered service between 1993 and 1999, into shape for the next 20 years. The cars currently operate on metro line 6 in the Austrian capital, running from Floridsdorf to Siebenhirten. | © Manfred Helmer

Knorr-Bremse is a leading manufacturer of braking systems and supplier of additional sub-systems for rail and commercial vehicles, with sales totaling approximately EUR 5.5 billion in 2016. Some 25,000 employees develop, manufacture, and service braking, entrance, control, and energy supply systems, HVAC and driver assistance systems, as well as powertrain-related solutions. As a technology leader, through its products the company has been making a decisive contribution to greater safety by road and rail since 1905. Every day, more than one billion people around the world put their trust in systems made by Knorr-Bremse.

Knorr-Bremse subsidiary **Kiepe Electric**, based in Düsseldorf, Germany, is a globally active supplier of electrical systems to the leading rail vehicle and bus manufacturers. The company offers efficient solutions and ecologically sustainable concepts for low-emission public transportation with eco-friendly electrical equipment for light rail vehicles, metros and regional rail networks as well as for battery, trolley and In Motion Charging (IMC) buses.

IFE is a division of Knorr-Bremse GmbH, Mödling, Austria, and has been a member of the Knorr-Bremse Group since 1997. In 2016 the Austrian Knorr-Bremse GmbH employed approximately 2,000 people at its Austrian sites in Mödling and Kematen/Ybbs, as well as in the Czech Republic, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Romania.

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