

Press Release

Munich, February 8, 2016

Knorr-Bremse acquires rail transport activities of brake pad specialist TMD Friction

The Knorr-Bremse Group has acquired the rail transport activities of brake pad specialist TMD Friction. Through this move, Knorr-Bremse is not only strengthening its position as a systems supplier but also adding to its friction materials expertise.

TMD Friction is a member of the Nisshinbo Holdings Inc. of Japan, one of the world's leading manufacturers of friction materials for automobiles, commercial, and rail vehicles. The company develops and produces innovative friction materials for almost all railway applications at its plants in Coswig, Germany and Manchester, UK.

"Through the acquisition of the rail transport activities of TMD Friction we are strengthening both our market position and our know-how in friction materials," said Klaus Deller, Chairman of the Executive Board of Knorr-Bremse AG. "Being able to develop braking systems and friction materials from start to finish will help us further improve the braking effect, reduce noise and cut life cycle costs, benefitting our customers and the environment."

The acquisition forms part of Knorr-Bremse's ongoing growth strategy. Back in 2008, Knorr-Bremse acquired Anchor Brake Shoes, the leading North American brake shoe manufacturer for locomotives and freight cars. This was followed in 2010 by a joint venture with ICER Rail that enabled Knorr-Bremse to round off its range with organic brake pads and brake shoes that comply with the European UIC standard.

Caption: By purchasing the rail transport activities of TMD Friction, Knorr-Bremse is strengthening its position as a systems supplier, while the acquired expertise will be channeled into customer-oriented product development and optimization.

TMD Friction is one of the world's leading manufacturers of brake friction materials to the automotive and brake industry. The company's product portfolio comprises disc brake pads and drum brake linings for passenger cars and commercial vehicles together with friction materials for racing and industrial applications. The TMD Friction Group employs approximately 4,800 people worldwide. www.tmdfriction.com

Knorr-Bremse is the world's leading manufacturer of braking systems for rail and commercial vehicles, with annual sales totaling almost €6 billion (2015). In over 30 countries, some 25,000 employees develop, manufacture, and service braking, entrance, control, and energy supply systems, HVAC and driver assistance systems, as well as solutions for powertrain and transmission control. As a technology leader, for more than 110 years now, through its products the company has been making a decisive contribution to greater safety by road and rail. Every day, more than one billion people around the world put their trust in systems made by Knorr-Bremse.

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