Safe and profitable locomotives

For safety technology for locomotives, Westfälische Lokomotivfabrik Reuschling relies on modern and proven COTS solutions that contribute to lowering operating costs, and allow fast and easy future modifications

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Maintenance and modernization specialist Westfälische Lokomotivfabrik Reuschling GmbH & Co.KG keeps rail vehicles in operation. For safety technology, the firm relies on COTS (commercial off-the-shelf) safety controllers from HIMA Paul Hildebrandt GmbH. The flexible, scalable controllers are certified up to SIL 4, in accordance with CENELEC, and are characterized by their openness and easy programming. The safety systems also make an important contribution to a new development from Westfälische Lokomotivfabrik Reuschling: the modular concept locomotive R500C.

Westfälische Lokomotivfabrik Reuschling has relied on HIMatrix® safety systems from the Brühl safety specialist for more than two years. HIMA safety controllers offer the railway industry modern, standardized COTS components that are well known throughout industrial automation. The mature, pre-certified COTS products are proven to offer economic advantages through lower investment and operating costs.

Walter Schreiber, Westfälische Lokomotivfabrik Reuschling GmbH & Co.KG Chief Executive Officer, considers the increasing use of COTS safety controllers in the rail sector to be a logical development. "One hundred percent of our solutions are COTS solutions. Nothing is better and more profitable than using a traditional, developed and finished solution. Behind COTS there is a stable industry standard. The spare parts are always available."

The programmable logic safety controllers are certified for implementation to the highest safety level, SIL 4, in accordance with CENELEC, which significantly simplifies and accelerates TÜV acceptance. At the same time, the devices also have the robustness required for railway applications. They are vibration-resistant and shock resistant, in accordance with IEC 61373 Class 1B, and they are available in temperature classes T1 (–25°C to +70°C) or TX (40°C to +85°C).

HIMatrix type F60 controllers are already in use on shunting engines in Neuss and Bremen. An important area of implementation for the F35 compact controller will be a new development from Westfälische Lokomotivfabrik Reuschling: the modular concept locomotive R500C, a rebuilt locomotive for which the basic components, such as frame and axle drive, remain identical. Everything else will be redesigned and set up in the form of individual modules, such as drive module, compressor module, transmission module, brake module and hydraulics module. Customers can select the modules in accordance with their requirements.

All modules of the concept locomotive have their own controller components. Without the distributed safety controllers, Westfälische Lokomotivfabrik Reuschling would not have been able to implement the concept in this manner. Through the modular structure of the control system and the network links of the individual components, the cabling effort is extremely low.

Walter Schreiber explains: "The controllers offer a flexibility that is significantly higher than that of other devices, and they are a mature system. And above all, at HIMA we have contact persons – people with whom we can work. For our custom concepts we must develop solutions together, and that can only happen in a partnership-based dialogue."

About HIMA

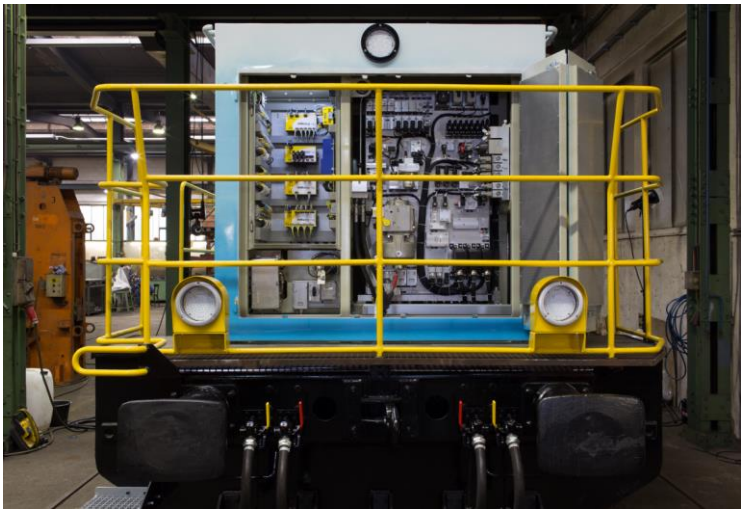
HIMA is the world's leading specialist for safety-related automation solutions. HIMA solutions provide maximum safety and maximum availability and can be integrated into any automation environment. During the past 45 years, more than 35,000 HIMA systems have been installed in over 80 countries to protect the equipment of the world's largest companies in the oil, gas, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and power generation industries. In the fields of rail, logistics and machine safety, HIMA solutions are leading the way to increased safety and profitability. The HIMA LIFECYCLE SERVICES concept gives customers an overview of all the requirements of "functional safety," allowing them to always make the right decision at the appropriate time.
For more information about HIMA, please visit: www.hima.com

Press contact

Headquarters:
HIMA Paul Hildebrandt GmbH
Daniel Plaga
Albert-Bassermann-Str. 28
68782 Brühl, Germany
Tel.: +49 6202 709-405
Fax: +49 6202 709-123
d.plaga@hima.com
www.hima.com

The Americas:
HIMA Americas Inc.
Nicole Pringal
Sr. Marketing and Public Relations Manager
5353 W Sam Houston Parkway N., Suite 130
Houston, Texas 77041, USA
Phone +1 713 482 2149 I Cell +1 713 876 9828
Fax +1 713 482 2065
npringal@hima-americas.com
www.hima-americas.com

PICTURES



Picture 1:
Source: HIMA Paul Hildebrandt GmbH
COTS safety controllers from HIMA are an important component of the R500C modular concept locomotive from Westfälische Lokomotivfabrik Reuschling GmbH & Co.KG.

Picture 2:
Source: HIMA Paul Hildebrandt GmbH
The chief executive officers of the Westfälische Lokomotivfabrik Reuschling GmbH & Co.KG: Walter Schreiber and Udo Pinders (left to right).