

Press Release

VTG builds first carbon-neutral maintenance workshop for its freight wagon fleet in Grossräschen, Brandenburg

- **Workshop scheduled to go into service in Q1 2024**
- **Capacity for sustainable maintenance and repairs for around 2,000 freight wagons per year**
- **Workshop supplied with carbon-neutral green electricity**
- **Jobs for highly qualified experts in a rural area**
- **Modern shopfloor management for even more efficient workshop processes**

Hamburg, June 29, 2023. In the rural town of Grossräschen in the German state of Brandenburg, VTG is investing tens of millions of euros to build a sustainable workshop for the maintenance and repair of its fleet of freight wagons. The 1,700-m² workshop will have the capacity to handle around 2,000 freight wagons per year, making the company more independent of external repair shop services. At the same time, it is a core element in the realization of VTG's sustainability strategy. Going forward, some 40 new jobs should be created in Grossräschen, with the company looking for people such as fitters, welders, warehouse operatives, quality assurance staff and marshaling staff. The workshop is due to go into service in early 2024. At a ceremony today to break the ground, Sven Wellbrock, Chief Operating Officer Europe & Chief Safety Officer at VTG, welcomed Guido Beermann, Minister of Infrastructure and Regional Planning for the State of Brandenburg, along with members of the German *Bundestag* and the Brandenburg *Landtag* (State Parliament).

"We are pleased to be ramping up our investment in Brandenburg," Wellbrock said. "In doing so, we are significantly enlarging our footprint at an attractive location in the heart of Europe. For us, the workshop in Grossräschen will in future be a central maintenance and repair facility. We will thus be able to guarantee even greater wagon availability for customers and play our part in further developing the climate-efficient rail freight sector of tomorrow." VTG has had a presence at the Grossräschen facility since 2020, where it currently processes wagons that are returned when their leases expire.

Building the new maintenance workshop in Grossräschen is a tremendously positive signal for Brandenburg and the rural spaces in our state," Guido Beermann said at the ground-breaking ceremony. "Freight transport volumes will continue to increase in the future, so we in Brandenburg want to put more freight traffic on the rails. By investing in this sustainable and climate-friendly transport system here in Grossräschen, VTG is making an important contribution to the development of green rail freight in Europe. That is good for the climate and will advance the structural transition in the region."

Shopfloor management for more efficient workshop processes

The project involves building a new workshop with adjacent office and warehouse space on the 65,000-m² site, which boasts around 10 kilometers of sidings. In the future, a modern, app-based shopfloor

management system will be introduced for the workshop's administrative processes. The aim of this system is to optimize the value chain by adopting more accurate, just-in-time delivery to the workshop, thereby boosting productivity in a smaller space. Only in this way can investments in the future of rail freight pay for themselves. Work in Grossräschen will focus on intermodal wagons, covering everything from the repair of typical damage to major revisions. The local team will also be able to inspect tank cars and provide mobile maintenance service.

A carbon-neutral workshop

The new workshop in Grossräschen is central to VTG's efforts to become climate-neutral by 2040. The entire complex will operate on a carbon-neutral basis: Thermal heat pumps will be installed, and most of the electricity needed will be generated by the workshop's own PV installations. Beyond that, only green electricity will be sourced to run the facility. An electric marshaling engine will be deployed to move wagons around the workshop area.

About VTG:

Headquartered in Hamburg, VTG GmbH is an international asset owner and logistics company with a strong focus on rail. Besides hiring out rail freight wagons and tank containers, it also provides multimodal logistical services and integrated digital solutions. The company's fleet includes around 84,000 rail freight wagons – mostly tank wagons, intermodal wagons, standard freight wagons and sliding-wall wagons – as well as about 5,000 tank containers.

This diversified service portfolio gives VTG's customers a robust platform for international freight transportation, based on which the company develops made-to-measure logistical solutions for any and every industry. Over many years, VTG has accumulated granular expertise across the entire transport chain – expertise that is now flanked by smart technology. The Group likewise combines a wealth of experience with a specialized knowledge of the transportation of liquid and sensitive goods in particular. Its customers include a plethora of leading companies representing the chemicals, petroleum, automotive and paper industries, agriculture and virtually every other sector besides.

VTG posted revenue of EUR 1,306 million and an operating profit (EBITDA) of EUR 467 million in the 2022 financial year. Effective December 31, 2022, VTG employed around 2,100 people worldwide.

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