

Press Release

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Knorr-Bremse receives sustainability award from Bombardier

Knorr-Bremse has received the 2014 Supplier Sustainability Award from Bombardier Transportation. The Canadian transportation engineering corporation, whose global rail vehicle activities are headquartered in Berlin, presents the award each year to suppliers who have shown special achievement in sustainable product and supplier development, and demonstrated exceptional commitment to social responsibility.

Dr. Robert Wassmer, Chairman of the Executive Board of Knorr-Bremse Rail Vehicle Systems and Stefan Bräuherr, who heads up Corporate Responsibility at Knorr-Bremse AG, accepted the award from Charles O'Donnell, Chief Procurement Officer, at the Bombardier Transportation Supplier Day held in Berlin on June 30, 2014. "We are extremely pleased that Bombardier appreciates our activities and achievements in the field of ecological and social responsibility. Because as a manufacturer of safety-critical systems, sustainability and product-related responsibility have been key pillars of our corporate culture for many years now – and they are decisive drivers of our future viability," commented Dr. Wassmer.

Knorr-Bremse received the award in the category for companies with more than 500 employees, recognizing the value that is consistently placed on sustainability across all parts of the company. "We are impressed at how Knorr-Bremse lives up to its social responsibility and how sustainability is systematically integrated into the daily business of the company," said Christoph Schwärzler, Director Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy at Bombardier Transportation.

As he accepted the award, Dr. Wassmer emphasized that successful sustainable business practices represent a challenge that manufacturers, operators, and suppliers can best master by joining forces. "Sustainability management is a continuous improvement process that can only succeed when all stakeholders are on board," he said. Such cooperation can transform challenges into opportunities which can be leveraged to the benefit of all parties.

“So we are looking forward to continuing our close partnership with Bombardier Transportation, working together to ensure the firmer integration of sustainability aspects into the value chain,” Dr. Wassmer concluded.

Julia Thiele-Schürhoff, who chairs the Knorr-Bremse Global Care association, added, “As a globally active, family-run company, we believe that our social responsibility doesn’t stop at our factory gates. It plays an important role which extends beyond our core business. Almost ten years ago, we set up Knorr-Bremse Global Care as a charitable organization to provide people in need around the world with the kind of support that one would expect from Knorr-Bremse – reliable and sustainable.”

The Bombardier Transportation Sustainable Supplier Award is presented annually. All suppliers who have committed to complying with the Bombardier Code of Conduct are invited to participate. A jury made up of representatives of Bombardier's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Purchasing, Quality, and Compliance departments uses a comprehensive questionnaire to evaluate the sustainability activities reported by the supplier companies. The suppliers document their positions on corporate ethics, product development strategy, sustainability along the supply chain, environmental protection, and responsibility towards their employees.

The **Knorr-Bremse Group** is the world’s leading manufacturer of braking systems for rail and commercial vehicles. For more than 100 years now the company has pioneered the development, production, marketing and servicing of state-of-the-art braking systems. In the rail vehicle systems sector, the product portfolio also includes intelligent entrance systems, HVAC systems, control components, and windscreen wiper systems, as well as platform screen doors, friction material and driver assistance systems. Knorr-Bremse also offers driving simulators and e-learning systems for optimum train crew training. In the commercial vehicle systems sector, the product range includes complete braking systems with driver assistance systems, as well as torsional vibration dampers, powertrain-related solutions and transmission control systems for enhanced energy efficiency and fuel economy.

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