



Rolling Stock Maintenance Europe 2018

Implementing Predictive Maintenance, Leveraging New Technologies And Optimizing Process & Workflow

4TH - 5TH DECEMBER 2018 ILEC CONFERENCE CENTRE, LONDON, UK



SPEAKER INTERVIEW

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Gerald, you are currently the Digital Innovation Manager at ÖBB BCC GmbH, but how did you first become interested in working in this industry?

Logistics and Operations was always a fascinating world for me. My previous job was at an airport, dealing with collaborative decision making. Once I realised that the railways nowadays are no longer dusty, old carriages but complex high-tech operations enterprises, I was fascinated by the opportunities and possible improvements to develop the industry to the next level.

Over this time, what has been the most exciting or innovative project you've worked on?

It is quite hard to pick out a single one. That is what personally is fascinating me most. All individual aspects like IoT, Data Science, Augmented Reality etc enable interesting approaches, but the biggest benefit results when these parts are combined to overarching solutions like predictive maintenance. Personally I think it could be the Blockchain as it is not just a new technology, but a chance for completely new or disrupted business processes and models.

Why is the application of CBM and RCM technology so important for the rail industry right now?

Simply - it is THE strongest cost driver. There are big amounts of money used to keep rolling stock up and working. The one who finds suitable approaches to lower these costs without affecting safety will have a massive cost advantage.

What benefits can either of these programs yield?

Knowing and predicting the demand for maintenance enables us to completely rethink how rail operations are supplied and what amount of rolling stock is needed for that. It enables much more planned operations.

What specific challenges have you encountered in these areas with ÖBB BCC GmbH?

The typical challenge is that management is oriented by projects and yearly budgets but predictive maintenance is a long-term process that introduces a cultural change and is usually yielding little or no benefits in the first years if your maintenance strategy has been well structured already.

How have you overcome these challenges?

Education, communication and a lot of expectation management (as a lot of vendors promise the opposite to the management).

Can you give us a test of what you will cover at this year's conference?

The holistic approach to predictive management.

What are you most looking forward to at the conference?

Interesting discussions, opportunities for collaboration and/or cooperation.