

Press Release

Intermodal transport: Innovative transport and cargo handling technology from VTG and VEGA puts semitrailers on the rails

- **roadrailLink (r2L) technology to handle non-craneable semitrailers**
- **Boost to intermodal transport as rail increases its share of the modal split**
- **VTG and VEGA International sign master agreement to drive the expansion of intermodal services**

Hamburg, February 8, 2021. Modern transport and handling technology to support attractive and sustainable intermodal transportation: In collaboration with logistics provider VEGA International, VTG AG has developed a solution that enables normally non-craneable semitrailers to be handled with cranes after all. The purpose of this solution is to make sure that even semitrailers that were hitherto not suitable for intermodal transport can now be put on the rails, further reinforcing the modal shift and boosting the share of environmentally friendly transportation.

Successful test runs were completed in Tilburg, the Netherlands, where VTG customer and terminal operator GVT piloted VEGA's roadrailLink (r2L) handling and transport technology and has now commissioned it for operational use. "One of our main goals is to further advance intermodal transport," says Jakob Öhrström, Managing Director and Head of the Intermodal Center of Competence at VTG Rail Europe GmbH. "One important step in the right direction is therefore to make it possible to use cranes to lift what are mostly non-craneable semitrailers, thereby shifting more transportation onto the rails. Thanks to the innovative r2L concept from VEGA, we have now found the right solution." In taking this step, VTG is once again underscoring its commitment to join with the whole of the transport industry in actively supporting the European Union's climate targets.

r2L – Faster and easier handling at intermodal terminals

The new r2L handling and transport technology provides a cost-effective way to handle non-craneable semitrailers of any type. The fully galvanized carrier is a platform that can be lifted onto or off regular double pocket wagons using terminal cranes or reach stackers. The r2L carrier needs neither ramps nor other fixtures, so semitrailers can be lifted onto and off pocket wagons with ease. It is therefore ideal for use in terminal operations, as terminal capacity is not hindered by ramps. Fast loading time is another benefit: Loading takes only about five to eight minutes per semitrailer. Moreover, thanks to laser distance measuring, little human support is needed compared to other handling systems: The driver of the terminal tractor can use a laser measuring device to see the exact position where the semitrailer is to be loaded onto the r2L carrier without leaving the cab. Loading can thus be completed very quickly, very accurately and very safely.

Long-term cooperation between VTG and VEGA

To actively stimulate further efforts to shift transport from road to rail, VTG AG and VEGA International have signed a master agreement that will ramp up their successful collaboration with a view to providing no-gaps intermodal offerings. Vertical loading onto T3000e pocket wagons is now possible, so the r2L

technology can already be used at more than 90 percent of all European terminals. Accordingly, VTG is now exploring the possibility of also launching the r2L transport and handling technology for TWIN pocket wagons.

About VTG:

Headquartered in Hamburg, VTG Aktiengesellschaft is a global 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 95,000 rail freight wagons – mostly tank wagons, intermodal wagons, standard freight wagons and sliding-wall wagons – as well as about 9,000 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 1,221 million and an operating profit (EBITDA) of EUR 512 million in the 2019 financial year. The Hamburg-based company's subsidiaries and affiliates give it a sizable footprint in Europe, North America, Russia and Asia. Effective December 31, 2019, VTG employed around 1,750 people worldwide.

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