

Press release

Gebrüder Weiss and Henkel opt for rail

Train transport from Vienna to Düsseldorf reduces CO₂ emissions by up to 70% / Innovative rail solution enables flexible, craneless trailer loading

Düsseldorf / Vienna / Kruševac / Lauterach, December 20, 2021. The transport and logistics provider Gebrüder Weiss and consumer goods specialist Henkel have expanded their long-standing logistics partnership with an innovative rail concept. Since May of this year, Henkel detergents and cleaning agents manufactured in the Serbian city of Kruševac have been delivered by train to their European sales markets along the Vienna-Düsseldorf line. This service, which already handles some 750 loads a year, was designed in conjunction with Henkel's logistics center in Düsseldorf. The two partners benefit in multiple ways. "We are circumventing the current shortage in truck capacity and have cut climate-relevant emissions by up to 70% on the Vienna-Düsseldorf route – while matching the delivery times of road transport," emphasizes Roland Raith, Country Manager Serbia at Gebrüder Weiss. The new solution lowers CO₂ emissions by approximately 500 metric tons per year.

Formerly transported by truck along the entire route, the products from Henkel's Laundry & Home Care division are now being loaded onto Helrom's horizontal trailer wagons in Vienna. This allows Gebrüder Weiss to use the same trailers that had previously been utilized in road transport. "The loading method is barrier-free," explains Roland Raith. "Thanks to Helrom, we no longer have to use conventional rail terminals. Nor do we need cranes or special craneable trailers. The trailers are simply slid laterally onto the freight wagons using swiveling loading platforms and removed again at their destinations by other tractor units."

The delivery concept was jointly developed and implemented by Gebrüder Weiss, Henkel and Helrom. One particular advantage is that the train is directly connected to Henkel's factory services. "The trailer hub is located right next to our site in Düsseldorf. That means we can unload the products straight from the wagons and shortcut them to our warehouses. The train link enables us to avoid truck transport, decrease CO₂ emissions and therefore make our processes more sustainable," explains Patrick Csar, Logistics and Export Manager for Supply Chain Laundry & Home Care at Henkel.

Long-standing logistics partnership

Gebrüder Weiss been cooperating with Henkel for more than 25 years. The logistics provider operates land, air and sea deliveries between various Henkel production and distribution hubs in Europe, Asia and the United States. Gebrüder Weiss is already deploying several low-emission gas trucks for Henkel in its European land transport network.



Caption: With 15 trailers and three departures a week, Gebrüder Weiss transports 750 loads for Henkel from Kruševac (Serbia) to Düsseldorf (Germany) annually. Seen here: a truck maneuvering its trailer directly onto the rail wagon at the container terminal in Vienna (Source: Gebrüder Weiss / Martin Jager)



Caption: Patrick Csar, Logistics and Export Manager for Supply Chain Laundry & Home Care at Henkel. (Source: Henkel)



Caption: Roland Raith, Country Manager at Gebrüder Weiss Serbia. (Source: Gebrüder Weiss)

About Henkel

Henkel manages a global portfolio that is balanced and diversified. Thanks to powerful brands, innovations and technologies, the company has secured leading market positions with its three divisions – both in the industrial and consumer sectors. Henkel Adhesive Technologies is the world market leader in adhesives, and the company's Laundry & Home Care and Beauty Care divisions are the dominant forces in numerous other markets and categories. Henkel was founded in 1876 and can look back on more than 140 years of success. In FY 2020, it posted sales of over 19 billion euros and an adjusted operating profit of about 2.6 billion euros. Henkel employs more than 53,000 people worldwide who form a diverse team – united by a strong corporate culture, a shared mission and common values. Henkel's pioneering role in sustainability is reflected in many international indices and rankings. Henkel preferred shares are listed on the DAX. For more information, see www.henkel.de.

About Gebrüder Weiss

With more than 7,400 employees, 170 company-owned locations and an annual turnover of 1.77 billion euros (2020), Gebrüder Weiss ranks among Europe's leading transport and logistics companies. In addition to its core business of land transport, air & sea freight, and logistics, the company operates a number of highly specialized industry solutions and subsidiaries under the umbrella of Gebrüder Weiss Holding AG, which is based in Lauterach, Austria. These include the logistics consultancy firm x|vise, tetraxx (industry specialist for hi-tech businesses), dicall (communications solutions, market research, training), Rail Cargo (railway transports), and the Gebrüder Weiss parcel service GWP which is the co-owner of DPD in Austria. This bundling of services allows the group to respond to customer needs quickly and flexibly. Today, having implemented a variety of environmental, economic and social initiatives, the family-run company with a 500-year history is also considered a pioneer in sustainable business practices. www.gw-world.com

About Helrom

The technology and transport company Helrom has patented a technology for loading and unloading trailers horizontally, without the need for cranes. Powered by a vertically integrated production model and its own resources, the company has rendered trailer transport by rail more reliable and economical – and less dependent on location. Helrom's own trains and trailer hub infrastructure guarantee a punctual, one-stop source of rail transport services. Barrier-free loading and unloading can be accomplished directly at a factory or warehouse, bypassing any bottlenecks at traditional terminals. As a service provider for freight forwarders, Helrom is seeking to drive a modal shift from road to rail. www.helrom.com

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