

Watford Conference 2008 Austria



The Watford Group

Theme introduction

At the Watford Conference in the Netherlands and Belgium the topic of this year's Watford Conference "**The future design for mobility and customer orientation**" was decided.

In many countries, the individual traffic meets its capacity limits. Therefore the public transportation sector is searching for new, customer-oriented mass mobility solutions.

Easy access to public infrastructure and customer friendly means of transport will be of great importance in the future. Increasing mobility of customers requires corresponding solutions – especially in the railway sector.

Rail-bound traffic currently has to face considerable challenges: To increase capacity, standard and competitiveness, high capital investment in railway stations and trains is necessary. At the same time, cost pressure on railway companies is rising in the wake of liberalization. Yet, many railway stations and vehicles do not meet customer requirements.

They are outdated due to disregard of necessary investments within the past years. Therefore, modernization and renewal of railway stations, rolling stock and infrastructure is urgently needed.

Considering these general conditions, railway architects and railway designers are facing manifold challenges. They have to find solutions and answers, which fit the expectations of customers as well as infrastructure developers.

Throughout the world, mobility, customer orientation and barrier-free accessibility are cutting-edge key words. During these years Watford Conference, we will discuss the impact of these issues for the design of future traffic and railway systems. Special emphasis will be put on the effect of top-quality architecture and design on the improvement of railway transport systems.

We would be glad to receive your presentation on one of the issues mentioned above. Please bear in mind that any presentations should contain theoretical approaches and comments on the one hand as well as relevant practical examples and feasible solutions on the other hand.

If you have any further questions concerning the conference presentations, please do not hesitate to contact:

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