

# First IRIS Certificate in Austria for “Traktionssysteme Austria” (“Traction Systems Austria”)

**The first Certificate issued acc. to IRIS (International Railway Industry Standard), a worldwide standard for increasing quality in rail vehicle industry, in Austria goes to “Traktionssysteme Austria”. The Certificate was handed over by Quality Austria on the occasion of Innotrans Berlin, a platform for national and international providers and requesters in passenger and freight traffic. “Traktionssysteme Austria” already looks upon a long tradition in quality management.**

“Traktionssysteme Austria” has 130 employees. The company develops and produces electrical drives for rail vehicles. “Traktionssysteme Austria” has already been certified acc. to ISO 9001 since 1992 and started introduction of IRIS from Lower Austria in early 2008. On 24 September 2008, IRIS Product Manager Johann Vesely handed over the IRIS Certificate on the international fair Innotrans in Berlin.

Konrad Scheiber, General Manager of Quality Austria, congratulates “Traktionssysteme Austria” on this pioneer achievement. “We are pleased to have the honour and privilege to issue the first IRIS Certificate in Austria for “Traktionssysteme Austria”. The complex requirements have been implemented professionally and consistently within some months.” As Günter Eichhübl, General Manager of “Traktionssysteme Austria”, puts it, “Successful IRIS certification enables us to continue to increase our quality even more and demonstrably evidence this high quality. This Certificate will help us to increase our performance steadily and in a well-aimed manner so that we can be successful on the market as a reliable partner for vehicle and system manufacturers.”

## **Avoiding nonconformities in the supply chain**

IRIS stands for a quality management model that is specially tailored to railway industry and its subsuppliers. IRIS is based on ISO 9001. However, it goes far beyond its requirements. Thanks to IRIS, requirements specific to rail vehicles can also be taken into account comprehensively. The objective of IRIS is to avoid possible nonconformities throughout the supply chain, reduce the costs and increase reliability. IRIS certification strongly intervenes in the purchasing process so that a maximum level of quality can be guaranteed right from the beginning. IRIS requires a certified quality management system.

## **Motivation and management commitment are decisive**

At the start of the project, there was a comprehensive IRIS training with 30 employees from the fields of engineering, design and development, purchasing, production, quality management and project management. An interdisciplinary composition of the team is recommendable because IRIS refers to all these areas. “At the start there was general scepticism among the employees. However, understanding increased while the project was progressing. IRIS, which was implemented in the management system, gradually developed its effectiveness,” says Willibald Pretl, Project Manager of “Traktionssysteme Austria”. Product Manager Johann Vesely sees the success of “Traktionssysteme Austria” in a competent project management and in clear management commitment. Raising awareness and people motivation, which were followed by well-aimed training, were additional important success factors.

## **Comparable audit results and business performance at benchmarking**

The IRIS audit system enables comparable audit results. For independently from the Certification Body or auditor, there will be objective and traceable assessment leading to an audit report. In addition, this audit report can also be viewed by authorized persons in the database of UNIFE (Union of the European Railway Industry). This makes a big difference to handling audit reports for ISO 9001 certifications, which are only utilized internally. Thus IRIS guarantees official and independent attestation of performance, which enables companies certified acc. to IRIS to clearly differentiate themselves from the competitors on the market. In the IRIS Supplier Database, 80 certified companies are already listed. Additional 200 companies are going through a certification process.

[ADVERTEASER: Please include picture IRIS here]

Phototext fltr:

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## **Quality Austria**

Quality Austria Training, Certification and Evaluation Ltd. ([www.qualityaustria.com](http://www.qualityaustria.com)) is the umbrella brand of the four organizations OQS, OVQ, OQA and AFQM. The organization is the national market leader and

contact in the fields of integrated management systems and industry standards. The services provided by Quality Austria range from training and further training in the field of international management trends and certification of quality and management systems via the award of the Austria Quality Label to distinguishing Austrian organizations for consistently pursuing excellence principles by presenting them with the Austrian Quality Award. The co-operation of Quality Austria with IQNet, EOO, EFQM and other international organizations enables global know-how to be imparted and turns the organization into a competent partner. Quality Austria co-operates with about 100 member organizations world-wide. More than 11,000 organizations in little less than 50 countries already profit from this. Quality Austria is a stable factor when it comes to creating valuable synergies at the economic site of Austria.

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