
First test cargo train from Ukraine arrived: TransFER Vienna-Kyiv gathers momentum

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The new TransFER route was first presented at transport logistic in Munich, and now the first test train is preparing the ground for future transports: we are talking about the TransFER Vienna-Kyiv.

The ÖBB Rail Cargo Group (RCG) is connecting Ukraine to its intermodal network ([TransNET](#)) in partnership with [Ukrainian Railways \(UZ\)](#).

The test train travelled from Kyiv to the Rail Cargo Terminal BILK in Hungary at the end of September and successfully transported non-craneable semi-trailers carrying building materials by rail.

This is a completely new concept, because until now it was only possible to transport the non-craneable semi-trailers on this route by truck, as is normally the case in the industry. This first for rail transport is therefore not only a blessing for the environment, but also eases the ongoing difficult situation with regard to the shortage of truck drivers in the Ukraine. One might say it is a win-win situation.

Non-craneable but still on the rails

This is made possible by r2L – roadrailLink – technology. The innovative handling and transport technology developed by the wagon hire company [VTG](#) in conjunction with its partner [VEGA](#) International makes it economically viable to load any type of non-craneable semi-trailer. This means that otherwise non-craneable trailers can be lifted with a crane and used in combined transport. The fully galvanised r2L solution is a platform that can be lifted vertically into and out of a pocket truck using either terminal cranes or reach stackers.

Keeping the economic wheels turning

The new connection between Kyiv and Vienna runs as required, with a stop in Budapest, and will offer the first regular, high-frequency intermodal connection between Ukraine and the numerous hubs in Central Europe. There are also other

means of ensuring the flow of goods between Ukraine and the EU besides intermodal transport: the RCG continues to transport 150,000 tonnes of Ukrainian grain into the EU and in so doing makes a significant contribution to global supply security.

Rail Cargo Group: the freight transport division of the ÖBB

As a leading rail logistics provider in Europe, we are shaping the industry. 365 days a year – 24 hours a day. Across Europe and beyond into Asia. With our presence in 18 countries worldwide, we connect people, businesses and markets – from the first to the last mile. It's thanks to our 5,887 logistics professionals from 34 nations that 448,000 trains a year, respectively 1,230 a day, reach their destinations safe and sound. With our efficient end-to-end logistics services, we transport over 88 million net tonnes of freight each year. A modal share of 27.5 % (preliminary value) of the total freight market in Austria makes us top of the league in Europe. Operational management of the Rail Cargo Group lies with Rail Cargo Austria AG.

(ÖBB)