

# SUCCESS STORY

## DB SCHENKER RAIL AUTOMOTIVE



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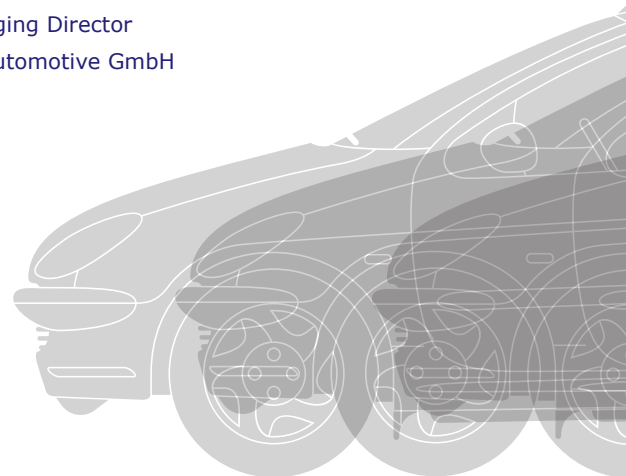


DB Schenker Rail Automotive GmbH offers rail-related logistics solutions focusing on supplier and inter-factory traffic.

With his European industry-specific train network the logistics expert ensures tailor-made just-in-time transport for the automotive industry.

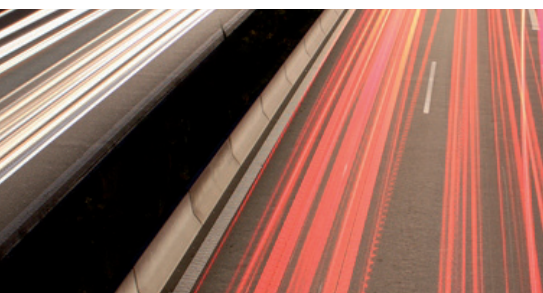
**„Offering perfect transparency for individual sectors is not enough for our customers. They require continuous information, regardless of how many partners are integrated in the transport.“**

Jens Nöldner, Managing Director  
DB Schenker Rail Automotive GmbH



### **Delicately setting the switch: IT solution makes for continuous transparency on rails**

According to the motto ‚One face to the customer‘ DB Schenker Rail Automotive GmbH achieves continuous transparency for European rail transports in the automotive sector. Assisted by the logistics platform AX4 a continuous and seamless monitoring of rail transports across Europe involving various rail operators was realised in a very short time. Approximately 95,000 trains, carriages or interchangeable containers are handled through the platform per year. This is done processing information and data from 16 different rail operators and various transit hubs and transport companies.



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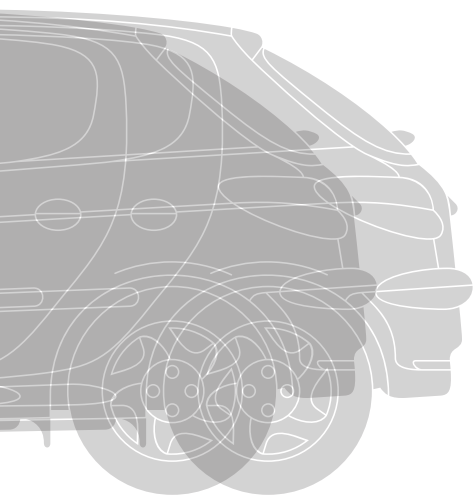
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The highly specialized automotive industry where challenging supply chain management is part of daily business has very high requirements on reliability and process transparency. As a holistic logistics provider DB Schenker Automotive Rail GmbH assumes responsibility and control of the entire transport chain for their customers.

It was in mid-2006 that the logistics specialist started to realise continuous transparency for rail transports via the logistics platform AX4.



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### THE REQUIREMENT

In order to achieve excellent processes in European rail services it is not sufficient to perfectly monitor an individual segment within a European transport when the remaining segments resemble a black box. DB Schenker Rail Automotive GmbH offers their customers complete transport concepts from source to drain. All the involved service providers (e.g. rail companies, road hauliers, hub operators) are integrated in this process and are controlled by DB Schenker Rail Automotive.

### THE SOLUTION

The solution is based on three critical pillars: the mapping of structures of trains, carriages and containers, storing of target schedules for DB Schenker Rail's train network and the entry of actual tracking data from the partners. These three pillars count among the solutions of the platform AX4.

As a first step all parties and processes were mapped in a continuously modelled workflow. Then, as the last layer of the excellence model, AXIT realized the "Supply Chain Visibility": based on the available data it is possible to proactively and automatically generate negative notifications and reports in case of discrepancies from the regular processes. Besides the specific mapping of certain relations with customer-individual peculiarities AXIT operates a general tracking solution for DB Schenker Rail Automotive's entire train network under the name of T-LINC.

The data returned by the rail operators is imported into AX4 and stored on several levels – on train, carriage and container levels. Saving on container level is especially relevant for smooth handling since the individual container is a continuous constant while carriages may change during the transport process. This could be the case if a train or carriage has to be re-gauged at a national border due to different track gauges.

### THE RESULT

Today 16 rail operators are integrated already, approx. 95,000 trains, carriages or interchangeable containers are handled through the platform per year, more than 100 users exchange almost 40,000 files per day via AX4. Customers like Opel, Audi, VW and Volvo showing very dedicated and special supply chains are successfully managed on various relations. Meanwhile seven of the platform's twelve available languages are in use, including some for the Eastern European relations. The staff of the DB customer service center in Duisburg have immediate online access to all data, are able to inform customers promptly and can act proactively due to the eMail warnings in case of delays.

Additionally, with the web-based platform DB Schenker Rail is immediately present in every country and with every partner: there is no software that needs to be implemented locally since AX4 is immediately available for any party involved through interface or web access. The added value the customer receives from the central IT solution: more process security and smooth processes at reduced management and controlling cost.

**Besides cost saving through automation, fewer researches and avoidance of special transports due to early intervention in the process AX4 is an important tool for customer retention for DB Schenker Rail Automotive.**