

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Frauscher Tracking Solutions FTS **New solutions for global railway markets**

At this year's InnoTrans in Berlin, Frauscher Sensor Technology launched a world premiere: its new product line Frauscher Tracking Solutions FTS, which has the potential to revolutionise the way of train operations. From the first minute of the exhibition it gained immense attention from all visitors who came to the Frauscher stand in large numbers.

Tracking and monitoring in real-time

On the principle of Distributed Acoustic Sensing (DAS) the new Frauscher Tracking Solutions FTS can be operated using only one single core of a fibre optic cable. As most operators already have installed such cables next to their tracks for communication, implementation of this new system is simple and quick. By sending laser pulses from an optical unit into the fibre 2,500 times a second, the fibre is transformed into a whole sensor that works like a virtual microphone. Sound waves hitting the cable cause minimal changes in its structure. This leads to a change in the laser pulse's reflection, which can be measured and set in relation to the time that has passed since sending out the pulse.

This enables a wide range of possibilities to improve existing or create new applications for train tracking, asset condition monitoring and security requirements. It is possible to detect passing trains, wheel flats, broken rails, footsteps on or near the cable, works such as sawing or digging, rock falls, animal herds and more – all along the track and in real-time.

Alliance of experts: making DAS ready for railway industry

Frauscher is the first supplier of rail technology, who has solved the issues for bringing DAS-based solutions to railways. During the last year, cooperation started with Fotech Solutions Ltd. Together, the first railway specific approaches have been developed to a status that allows a presentation to the markets. Now this cooperation between Frauscher and Fotech will be intensified in order to push these achievements to the next level.

Under the strong leadership of Frauscher, a joint research and development team was founded lately: "To further develop this new approach we are investing even more in research and development in the future. The new Frauscher Tracking Solutions FTS fit perfectly with our existing portfolio. They can be combined with our core systems for axle counting and wheel detection. Thus, we can provide our customers with massively expanded options", Michael Thiel, CEO Frauscher Sensor Technology, explains the latest developments.

A new base technology

Peter Bradley, who took on the role as FTS Director, has been involved with this exciting technology for over seven years. He is convinced that it will revolutionise the railway industry: "My goal was to deploy this technology safely in the rail sector – and with Frauscher this goal has been realised. Some solutions for railway specific applications have already been developed. They are now available and can be provided to the market. Due to the overwhelming feedback and results that we collected in several pilot installations and at

InnoTrans 2016, we are sure that DAS has the potential to become a base technology for railway operations in the near future.”

Also Chris Shannon, CEO Fotech Solutions, comments: “Over the last eight years Fotech has been developing some fantastic DAS technologies, delivering real-time monitoring solutions to the Pipeline, Security and Oil & Gas markets. We decided that to take our technology to the rail market we would need to work with people who not only have experience of rail sensors and the rail market, but the vision to deliver this new technology into the industry. In Frauscher this vision has been realised and as we continue to innovate together we are sure that DAS will prove to be an industry game changer.”

IMAGES

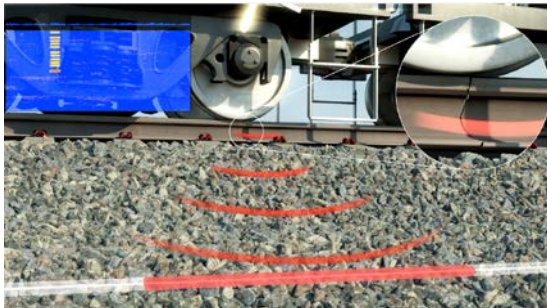


Image1: Frauscher_FTS_BrokenRail.jpg

Image text: Using FTS it is possible to detect broken rails in real-time



Image2: Frauscher_Stand_InnoTrans2016.jpg

Image text: Frauscher Tracking Solutions FTS and developments on proven axle counters and wheel detection systems gained high interest at InnoTrans 2016

Track more with less: Frauscher Sensor Technology makes it simpler for system integrators and railway operators to obtain the information they need to run, monitor and protect their operational network. Wheel detection systems, axle counters and tracking solutions based on inductive sensor technology and distributed acoustic sensing form an essential component of a wide range of applications. Due to individual trainings and support our customers are able to design, configure, install, adapt and maintain all components and systems by themselves.

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