

Alstom Innovation Awards 2019

Team from Switzerland and Germany awarded gold medal for gauge-changeable bogie

January 22, 2020 – On 12 December 2019, a joint team from Switzerland and Germany won the gold medal in the category of “Innovative Products & Systems”. The team convinced the jury with its idea of a gauge-changeable bogie for trains.

Trendsetting innovations were awarded for the 12th time within the scope of the company-wide innovation programme ‘I Nove You’ in France, Alstom’s headquarters. With more than 2,000 participants and a total of 620 projects submitted from 23 countries, more Alstom teams participated in 2019 than ever before.

The joint team from the sites of Neuhausen (Switzerland) and Salzgitter (Germany) showed this year how successful cross-border cooperation can look like. The Centre of Excellence (CoE) Regional Bogies in Salzgitter was responsible for the design and development of the gauge-enabled bogie and is also where the bogies are produced.

The newly developed bogie can continuously adjust its gauge from meter to standard gauge (1,435mm), thus solving the challenge of differently high platform edges and track gauges, which is the case in Switzerland.

This adjustment can be performed during the passage of a stationary gauge changing mechanism at a maximum speed of 15 km/h. Thanks to its flexibility, the bogie allows an efficient and cost-effective operation because its use reduces the number of necessary train configurations. Operators therefore receive reliable multifunctional bogie technology with minimum investment.

Passengers, too, benefit from this innovative novelty. For them, this flexible bogie means fewer changeovers and therefore less time lost. The bogie is adjusted to differently high platform edges, thus ensuring a convenient and safe entry and exit. In addition, a pneumatically controlled suspension and the optimum bogie design provide a pleasant ride comfort. The competitive gauge-changing trailer bogie will mainly be used on track sections between Montreux and Interlaken in Switzerland. This innovation will help Alstom to further strengthen its pioneering position in railway technology.

Cora Hentrich-Henne, Managing Director of Alstom in Switzerland, explains the importance of the innovation programme for Alstom: “Innovation is a major part of our strategy for 2020. We are delighted that the Swiss team has been awarded for its work. The award-winning adjustable bogie was developed for the special needs and requirements of the Swiss market. With this technology, we are able to further emphasize our position as a pioneer of smarter mobility and to set ourselves apart from competitors who rely primarily on conventional bogies. .”

**Innovation
programme
'I Nove You'**

Open to all employees across all business lines and sites, the competition 'I Nove you' rewards creativity in every shape and form, spanning products, systems, processes, sustainable development, and even open innovation. With this approach, the Group confirms the importance of innovation at the heart of the "Alstom In Motion" strategic plan, to build and reinvent the mobility of tomorrow. The 12th edition of 'I Nove You' took place on 12th December 2019.

Since the launch of the "I Nove You" programme, numerous innovative solutions have been developed to improve Alstom's know-how and customer service. This decade has seen the birth of innovations such as Coradia iLint, the world's first hydrogen train, StationOne, the online platform for spare parts, as well as HealthHub, Alstom's digital maintenance suite, or Hesop, a regenerative braking system that can reinject up to 99% of energy into the network.

About Alstom

Leading the way to greener and smarter mobility worldwide, Alstom develops and markets integrated systems that provide the sustainable foundations for the future of transportation. Alstom offers a complete range of equipment and services, from high-speed trains, metros, trams and e-buses to integrated systems, customised services, infrastructure, signalling and digital mobility solutions. Alstom recorded sales of €8.1 billion and booked orders of €12.1 billion in the 2018/19 fiscal year. Headquartered in France, Alstom is present in over 60 countries and employs 36,300 people.

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