

Vienna, 16.07.14



## Wiener Linien and the Austrian technology company BATEGU embark upon a cooperative partnership

BATEGU, the medium-sized Austrian company is the world's first rubber manufacturer to successfully develop a material and a process with which it is now possible to use natural rubber to produce rubber or rubber-metal components, which meet and even exceed current European fire safety standards, and thus offer maximum possible fire protecting and safety to passengers when used in rail vehicles.

Wiener Linien has announced that it plans to be the first global rail operator to incorporate this innovation into its low-floor vehicles. At the start of January 2014, the two companies signed a multi-year contract for the manufacture and delivery of layer springs designed to comply with EN 45545. The first retrofitted tram sets will be in use as early as next year

"In BATEGU we are delighted to have found an Austrian specialist company, which will help us to make our fleet of rail vehicles even safer," states Günter Steinbauer, Managing Director of Wiener Linien. Frank Schmitt, Managing Director of BATEGU, adds: "Wiener Linien is one of Europe's largest urban public transport companies and is giving us the opportunity and trusting us to deploy our innovation for the first time in Austria. They are thus setting an excellent example and are very conscious of their considerable responsibility towards their passengers."

### ***The unique development of the BATEGU product ensures maximum fire safety***

*Natural rubber is generally used as the base elastomer in the production of rubber or rubber-metal parts. Due to the exacting demands in rail vehicle construction, these components have to have excellent setting behaviour combined with other outstanding technical properties. As of today, achieving low-cost fire safety qualities (flame-retardant, self-extinguishing and low smoke density with low smoke toxicity) is only possible by the direct addition of flame retardants into the elastomer. Many of these flame retardants lead to smoke density and toxicity standard limits being exceeded and are potentially hazardous to health and the environment. The functionality of the components can also be extremely adversely affected by the addition of flame retardants. The innovative BATEGU development ensures fire safety by means of a newly developed rubber compound and an ingenious manufacturing process, thereby avoiding the aforementioned technical drawbacks and revolutionising the use of rubber and rubber-metal components. The patent was granted in early 2014.*

### ***Tested - and found to be very good!***

*The new BATEGU rubber complies with statutory safety regulations, is fire and flame retardant, nevertheless offers all the technical benefits of rubber or composite rubber elements: the setting behaviour of the rubber, characteristic properties (such as static and dynamic rigidity, damping) and optimised properties (such as minimal ageing and cold hardening, dynamic long-term behaviour) are retained unaltered.*

*The new BATEGU development conforms to the fire safety requirements of EU standard EN 45545. Relevant tests carried out by the Vienna-based TGM State Experimental Laboratory for Plastics and Environmental Technology and OFI Technologie & Innovation GmbH proved that the newly developed rubber is even significantly below the limits required in the standard for heat release, smoke generation and smoke gas toxicity.*

**Entirely new uses of rubber components in rail vehicles**

*The BATEGU development means that it is now possible to meet the fire safety requirements governing bogie components set out in EU standard EN 45545, without impairing their operation. At the same time, the BATEGU innovation opens up entirely new possibilities, which could not be achieved to date due to the requisite fire safety provisions, as there is no need to expensive safety equipment to prevent fires. The product can also be combined with many different materials, such as metal or plastic. What is more, the BATEGU innovation also opens up many different uses in other sectors, like buildings, shipbuilding and mining.*

**BATEGU - the company, in which everything revolves around rubber**

*Vienna-based BATEGU Gummitechnologie GmbH & Co KG, is one of Austria's leading highly specialised technology companies. Since BATEGU was established in 1948, everything has revolved around rubber. As a development partner and manufacturer of sealing, vibration and drive components, BATEGU supplies many industrial sectors worldwide with innovative special products and components made of rubber and rubber-metal, like the automotive industry, machine and plant construction companies and the electrical sector.*

*The company attaches great importance to the careful use of existing resources in its development and production. Its long-term success is based on continuous innovation, customer focus and service, quality based on the zero error principle and an HR policy that offers equal opportunities and continuous development. BATEGU currently employs a workforce of 54. Frank Schmitt is the Managing Director of the company.*

**Contact for enquiries**

Frank J. Schmitt  
BATEGU  
Gummitechnologie GmbH & Co KG  
Muthgasse 22, 1190 Vienna  
Tel. +43 (1) 368 21 53 - 25  
Fax. +43 (1) 368 21 53 - 24  
[frank.schmitt@bategu.at](mailto:frank.schmitt@bategu.at)