



TMD Friction participates in Federal Ministry for Economics and Technology research project

Composite brake blocks reduce noise in the rail freight transport sector

Leverkusen, 6 April 2011 – The Federal Ministry for Economics and Technology in Berlin has given the go ahead for the research project “Noise-reduced rail freight transport due to composite brake blocks”. TMD Friction is one of five leading brake friction manufacturers to be promoted by the Ministry to carry out research into innovative composite brake blocks for rail freight car brakes. The friction materials to be developed are to replace the conventional grey cast iron blocks in terms of direct and indirect reduction of noise generated by existing rail freight cars. Composite brake blocks reduce the noise level by up to 10 decibels in comparison to grey cast iron blocks, which corresponds to a reduction by half of the subjectively perceived noise pollution. While composite brake blocks are already being installed in new rail freight cars, the retrofitting of existing vehicles has to date been time-consuming and expensive. By further developing existing friction materials within the framework of the research project, the economic efficiency of composite brake blocks is to be improved without forfeiting the noise-reducing effect. The Ministry plans to start retrofitting the first existing rail freight cars with the new composite brake blocks in 2013.

Due to the use of grey cast iron blocks in rail freight transport, there are often undesirable squealing sounds when braking, as well as, independently of this, considerable running noises. Politicians and railway companies in Germany are aware of these problems and want to halve rail traffic noise by 2020. The Federal Ministry’s research project to promote the development of new composite brake blocks to refit existing

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rail freight cars is given high priority within the Federal Government's wide-ranging catalogue of measures to be implemented.

The project is planned to run for 42 months and its objective is to have low-noise materials developed by five major brake friction manufacturers, one of whom is TMD Friction.

"Nomination by the Ministry is, of course, an honour for us, but not a surprise. For TMD Friction has been developing and manufacturing low-noise friction products for rail traffic under the brand name Cosid for many years. We will put all our experience and expertise into the development of these friction materials in order to achieve the ambitious goals of the project. We want to contribute towards considerably reducing the noise generated by rail freight cars as soon as possible", said Dr. Roman Milczarek, Vice President Business Development at TMD Friction.

There are two ways to curb the development of noise in rail traffic, namely, passive and active noise protection. Passive noise protection is aimed at structural measures such as noise barrier walls and sound insulating windows. The active approach, such as the composite brake blocks, begins directly at the source, i.e., on the railway line and the wheel/rail contact. Composite brake blocks such as are already being used by TMD Friction for other applications (metro), considerably reduce the rolling noise of rail vehicles.

TMD Friction's product range in the rail traffic sector includes disc brake pads and brake blocks for local, regional and long-distance traffic, as well as for rail freight transport. Low-noise composite brake blocks from TMD Friction are already being used in numerous international rail freight trains. All friction materials produced by the company for rail traffic and industry are marketed under the brand name Cosid. The rail applications are developed and manufactured in Manchester, where TMD Friction maintains a large-scale railway test bench, and in Coswig in Saxony.



About TMD Friction

TMD Friction, a Luxembourg group, is among the world's leading manufacturers of brake friction materials for the automotive and brake industries. Its product portfolio comprises disc brake pads and drum brake linings for passenger cars and commercial vehicles together with brake pads for racing cars and friction materials for rail and industrial applications. TMD Friction is one of the largest suppliers to the global replacement parts aftermarket with its Textar, Pagid, Mintex, Don and Cobreq brands. Brake pads for rail and industrial applications are developed and produced under the brand name Cosid. TMD Friction has operations in Germany, the United Kingdom, and three other European countries, as well as in the US, Brazil, Mexico, China and Japan. The TMD Friction Group employs approximately 4.500 people worldwide. For further information please visit www.tmdfriction.com.

Captions:

Picture "Dr. Roman Milczarek_Porträt": Dr. Roman Milczarek, Vice President Business Development at TMD Friction.

Picture "Lärmschutz_im_Güterverkehr": TMD Friction carries out research into innovative low-noise composite brake blocks for rail freight car brakes.

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