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EuropeTrain and the Homologation of a Low Noise Brake System with LL Brake Blocks

UIC Presentation, May, 28th 2013

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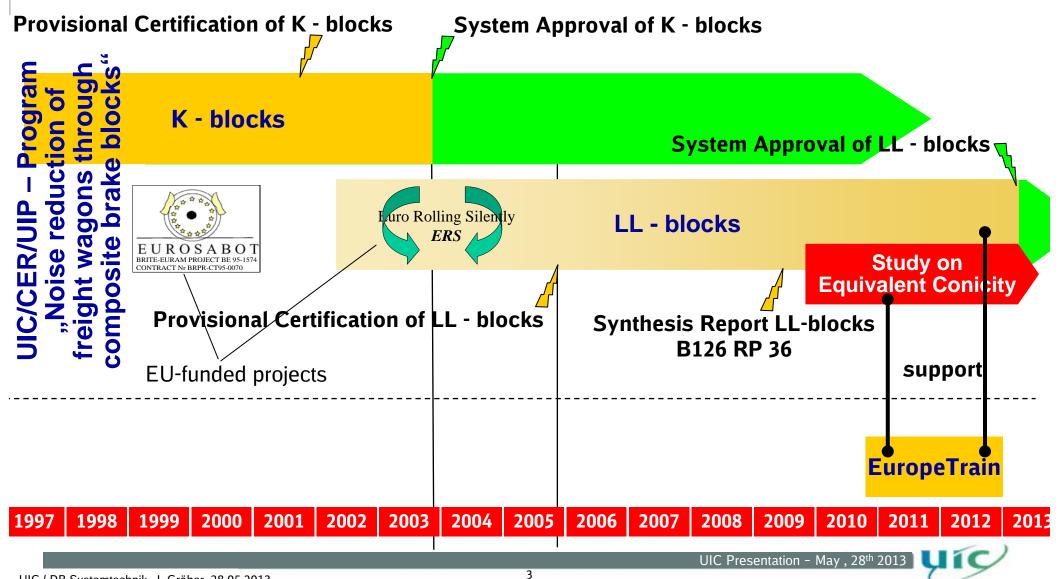
The basic principle for a noise reduction at the source (wheel/railcontact) is very simple: "Smooth wheels on smooth rails"

Rough wheel Smooth wheel (braked with composite (braked with cast brake blocks) iron brake blocks) DB Systemtechnik **DB** Systemtechnik

Basic principle: "Smooth wheels on smooth rails "

- With the use of composite brake blocks in combination with smooth rails the pass-by (rolling) noise is reduced by approximately 10 dB (A), which means a halving of the felt noise
- Two technical solutions are available with type K or LL
- With K blocks a proven and fully homologated technology is available for new wagons – but not economically feasible for retrofitting due to high effort and cost
- The final homologation of LL brake blocks for a quick and affordable retrofitting of the existing fleet is done

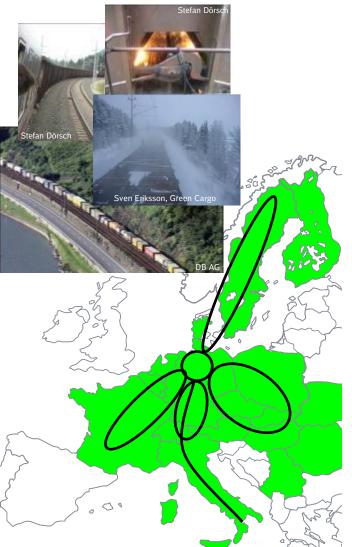
UIC member's money spent so far on the development of composite brake blocks now led to the final goal - the Homologation of LL blocks



The path of the EuropeTrain was defined in different Loops, each representing certain operational, topographic and/or meteorological conditions

- A Train with about 30 representative wagons which runs throughout Europe only for the in-service testing of LL brake blocks
- Duration of testing at least one year including all climatic conditions
- Mileage to be achieved at least 200.000 km
- All operational conditions relevant for Europe have to be covered, e.g. running on different gradients with different operational modes, arctic winter areas, high temperature zones

Loop 1	Winter flat loop (Scandinavian loop)	2 runs planned
Loop 2a	Summer flat loop (French loop)	4 runs planned
Loop 2b	Summer flat loop (German Rhine valley loop)	2-3 runs planned
Loop 3	Transalpine loop (winter and summer conditions)	3-4 runs planned
Loop 4	Eastern loop	2-3 runs planned
Loop 5	Summer mix loop (Italian loop)	2 runs planned
In total	Approx. 200.000 km	16 runs planned





The operation of EuropeTrain was finished successfully with an overall **U** mileage of more than 200.000 km. The results are very promising.



10	26.11 16.12.11	Winter flat loop - France loop	 ✓
9 10	15.10. – 06.11.11 26.11. – 16.12.11	Eastern loop - Poland/Slovakia Winter flat loop - France loop	 ✓ ✓
11	20.01.12 - 07.02.12	Winter mix loop - Germany/ Switzerland	
12	02.03.12 - 17.03.12	Scandinavian Loop - Sweden	 ✓
13	14.04.12 - 05.05.12	Summer flat Loop – Germany	
14	28.05.12 - 14.06.12	Summer flat Loop – France and Luxembourg	~
15	06.07.12 - 05.08.12	Summer Loop - Italy	 ✓
16	01.09.12 - 20.09.12	Summer mix Loop – Austria/Hungary	~
	In total	Approx. 200.000 km	

27 Railways and 8 Industry Partners supported the Project



4 Manufacturers of Brake systems and Brake blocks supported the project with considerable financial contributions Faiveley Transport Knorr Bremse ICER Brakes Wabtec (Becorit / CoFren) UIC Presentation - May, 28th 2013

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The conclusions summarized in the Synthesis Report LL – B 126 RB 36, were also confirmed by the results of EuropeTrain:

- The requirements regarding braking are fulfilled.
- The thermal burden on the wheels is uncritical by following the rules defined in the "Usage guidelines for composite (LL) brake blocks".

Perspective for the final Homologation based on the results of EuropeTrain:

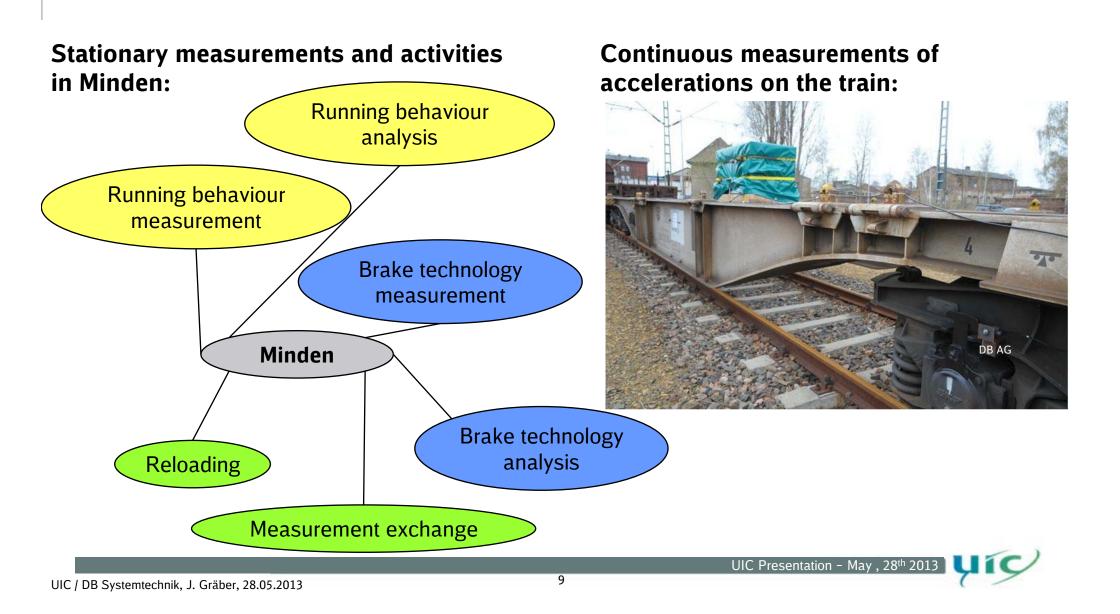
- LL-block products are available to be homologated
- The Homologation can be finalized taking into account operational constraints
- The operational constraints are related to regularly inspections of the wheel profiles and possibly reprofilations. The new, less extensive intervals and limit values were derived from the very positive results of EuropeTrain.



And now a quick look into the workshop

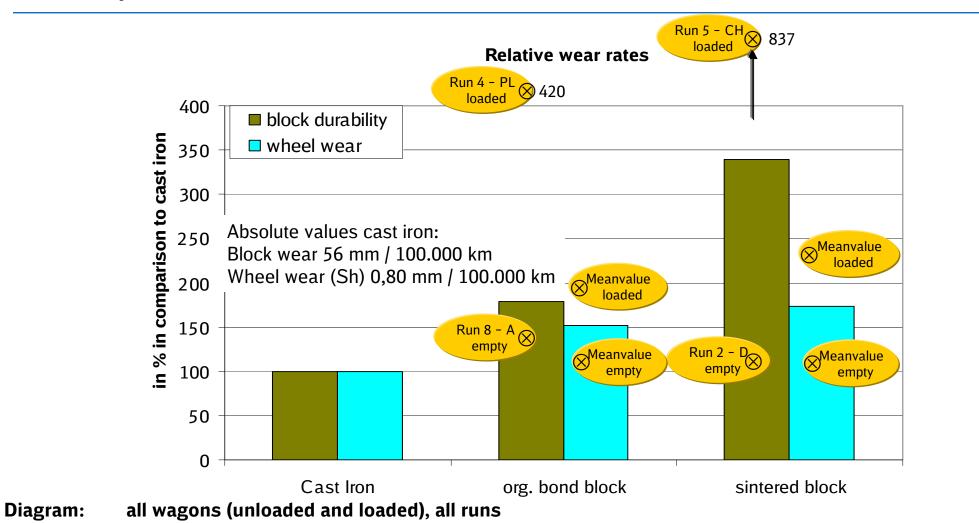


Continuous and Stationary measurements in EuropeTrain





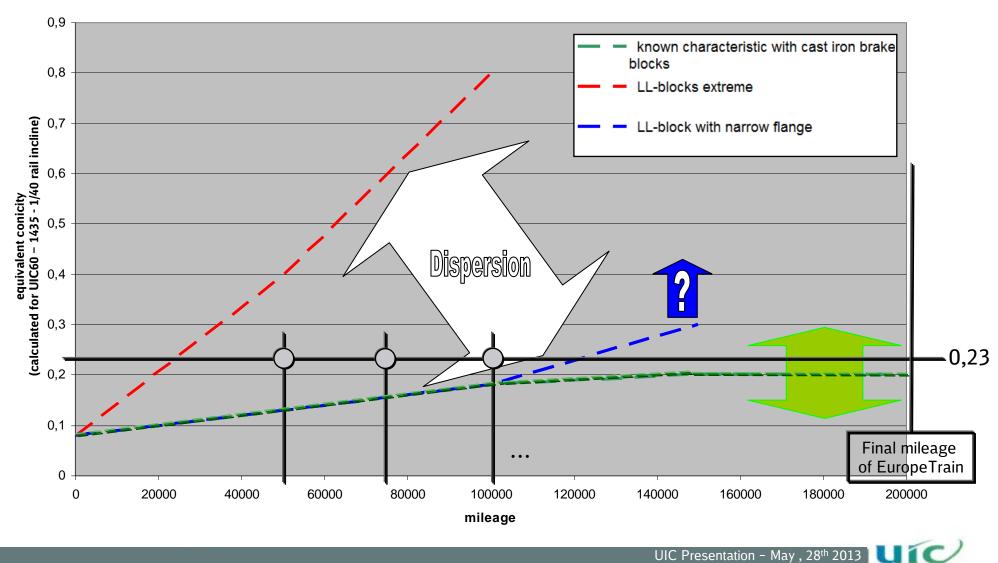
The mean values of wheel wear and block durability show the same tendency as in other in-service tests



Please note: Block and wheel wear is varying much between the different loops and conditions (see examples). Therefore the EuropeTrain project also provides a huge amount of raw data for further LCC analyses.

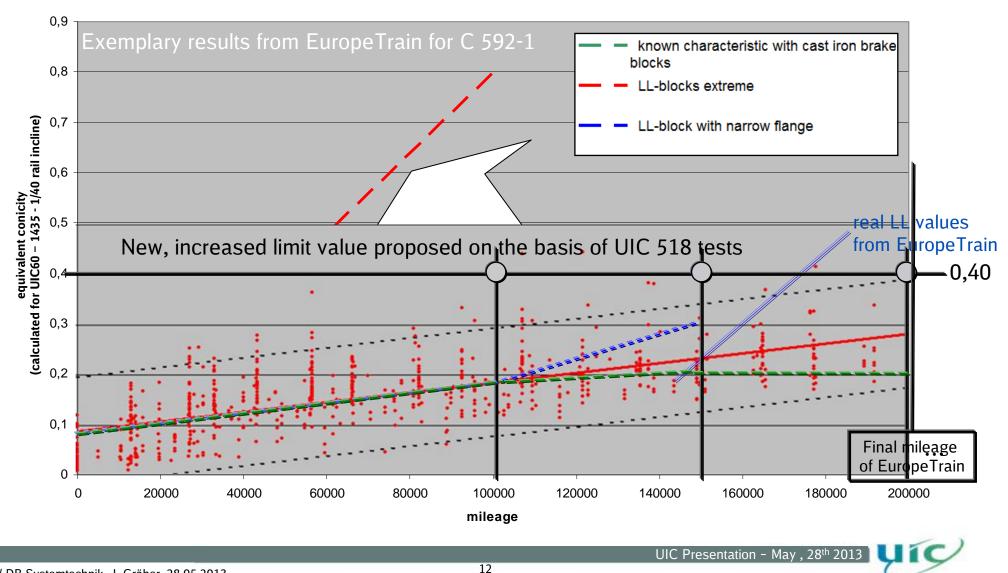


Overall Results regarding the evolution of Equivalent conicity - Situation at the beginning of EuropeTrain - schematic -



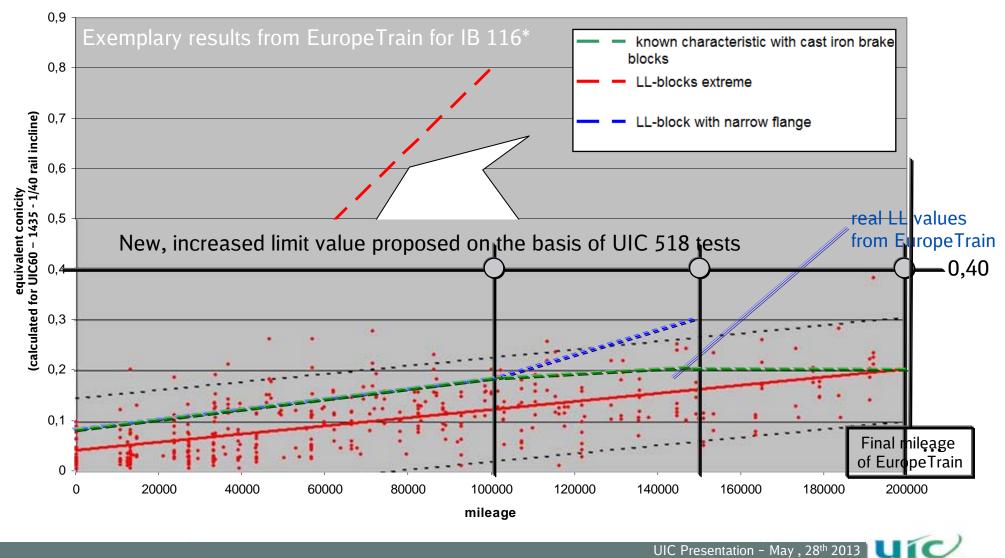


LL brake blocks in EuropeTrain show an increase of equivalent conicity near the lower limit of the schematic diagram



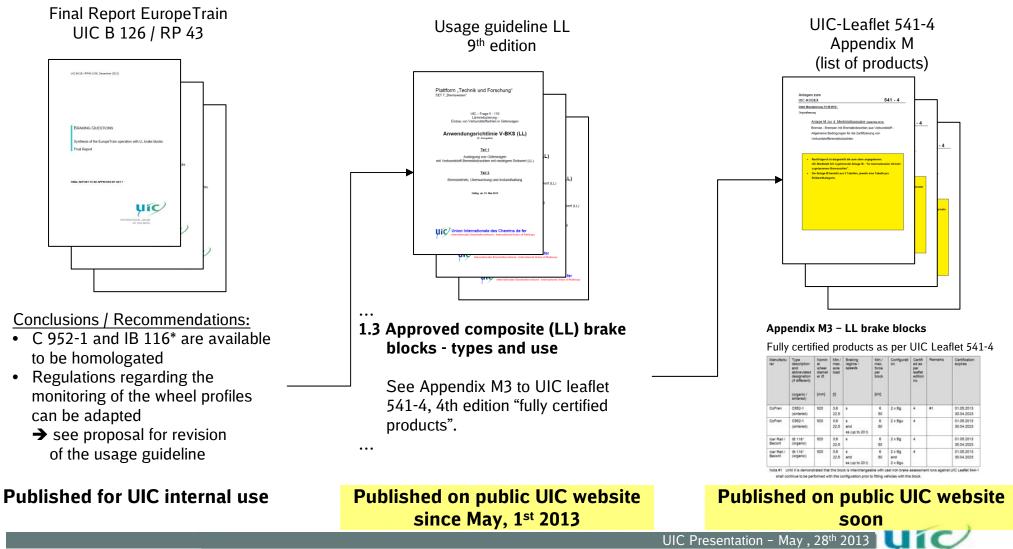


LL brake blocks in EuropeTrain show an increase of equivalent conicity near the lower limit of the schematic diagram



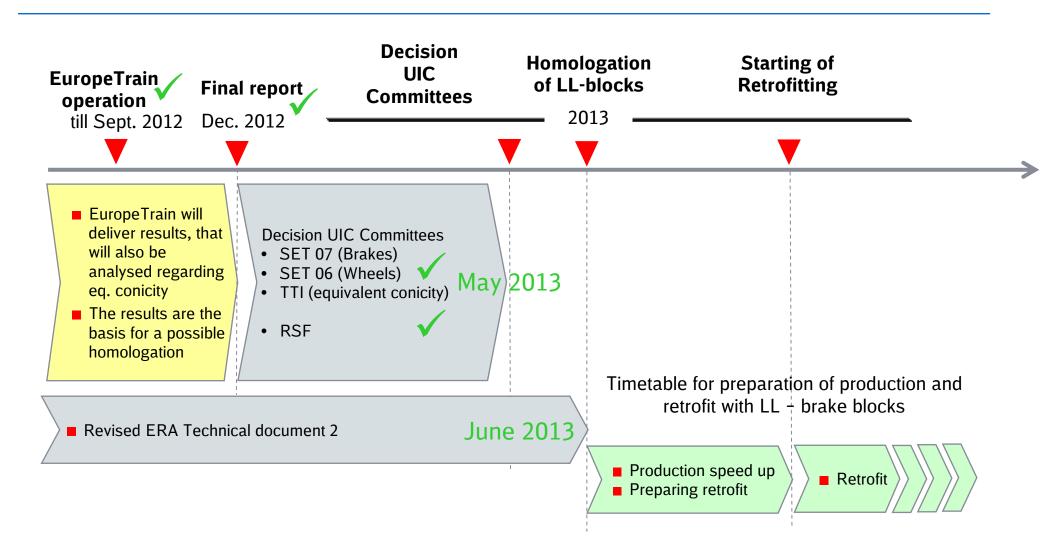


Decisions of UIC regarding the final Homologation of LL brake blocks are published in two documents





Time table Homologation of LL brake blocks / Retrofitting with LLblocks



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- The STAIRRS project demonstrated that reducing noise at the source by retrofitting freight rolling stock with low noise braking technology to ensure smooth wheel surfaces is the most cost effective option, and that this is far more cost-effective than constructing noise barriers, since it avoids high investments and maintenance cost for infrastructure managers
- With K blocks a proven and fully homologated technology is available for **new wagons** but not economically feasible for retrofitting due to high effort and cost (approx. 2,000 10,000 € per wagon)
- Considering a fleet of 350,000 freight wagons in Europe retrofitting with LL blocks will significantly reduce the retrofitting cost from ca. 1,8 Billion € to ca. 450 Million €
- UIC spent so far **about 15 Million €** on the whole development process for K and LL brake blocks

For Questions and Suggestions I'm at your disposal





For further information: >>> http://EuropeTrain.uic.org

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