Press release

Opening of the Transport Research Arena 2018

Transport Minister Norbert Hofer: "Digital infrastructures and innovative communication technologies such as 5G services are key to the turnaround in mobility."

(Vienna, 16th April 2018): Transport Minister Norbert Hofer, as well as organisers and sponsors, all made key comments on the main topics of "digitalisation" and "decarbonisation" on the occasion of the opening of the Transport Research Arena 2018 (TRA 2018), Europe's largest transport research conference, which this year features the theme of "A Digital Era for Transport" and is taking place this week in Vienna.

Transport Minister Norbert Hofer: "In view of the challenges we face in shaping the future of our mobility, the Digital Era means one thing above everything else: transformation and change through digitalisation and decarbonisation as key megatrends for future mobility. A turnaround in energy and mobility means embracing new technologies and trends in the best possible way, so as to safeguard added value, jobs and prosperity for the future."

Hofer continues: "Physical and new digital elements that work together perfectly will make our transport system better, safer and more reliable. The key to this is innovative communication and mobile technologies. By 2023, 5G services should be available on the main traffic connections. By the end of 2025, the goal of nearly nationwide availability of 5G should be realised. Internationally, we want to be at the forefront of digitalised countries. "

TRA 2018 is being hosted by the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology in cooperation with the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology and AustriaTech, the European Commission and the European Technology Platforms. According to Dr. Christian Chimani, Programme Chair of TRA 2018 and Head of the Center for Low-Emission Transport at the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology: "AIT experts are developing ground-breaking solutions for low-emission traffic and are using state-of-the-art digital technologies to optimise the mobility of people, freight transport and the underlying infrastructure.

It is not least because of this extensive expertise that AIT was commissioned to develop the programme for TRA 2018. The conference covers basic research to market implementation within 12 topics, to create a unique programme of research and debates. The next few days will offer significant opportunity in over 90 sessions to exchange information with renowned experts from all over the world about current research results and discuss new developments across all modes of transport, which range from pedestrians to aeronautics. In line with the conference theme, there will be a strong focus on digitalisation and decarbonisation in transport, including big data applications, intelligent transport management and intelligent urban mobility and logistics."

The sponsors of TRA 2018 are ASFINAG, AVL, BMW, HEREmobility, ITS Vienna Region, Kapsch, MAN, ÖBB, Plasser & Theurer, Siemens, Voest Alpine and Volkswagen. "A competitive transport service for goods and people is crucial to ensure the security of supply for industry and society," said Georg Kapsch, President of the Federation of Industrialists (IV). Essential cornerstones for the mobility of the future are therefore not only the issue of driving, but also mobility management and the true cost. The question should not be about which propulsion system is the right one, but which one is most suitable for which purpose," stated Kapsch in advocating for a technology-open approach. "At the same time, we need efficient and networked mobility management to be able to analyse traffic and infrastructure-related data to save empty kilometres and thereby reduce costs and emissions. The cost allocation should be causative, with the focus on consumption rather than engine power - such as a kilometre-based user fee, said the IV President, who pronounced himself in favour of site-relevant infrastructures, as well as for a federal framework expertise in spatial planning and a strong focus on research and development.

"The railways are pioneers of automation and digitalisation. Trains are already automated today in many areas. Autonomous driving means finding algorithms for operating the trains, so that they can run at optimal speed and thus operate without unnecessary stops. Thus, we gain capacity for additional trains and can also save energy. In the years to come, we will continue to work intensively on this topic and I am pleased to have the opportunity to have an intensive exchange of ideas on the mobility of tomorrow at the TRA 2018 in Vienna," commented Andreas Matthä, CEO of ÖBB-Holding AG.

Chairman of the Board of AVL, Dr. Helmut List: " AVL has supported the Transport Research Arena since the first event in Gothenburg in 2006, as the TRA also represents the diverse research activities of AVL. For the future, we see competition between the three technologies - internal combustion engine, battery/electric propulsion and fuel cell - and their combinations. At AVL, we work on the high potential of these technologies with equal priority. Another research focus is ADAS and Autonomous Driving. "

Enquiries and contact:

Federal Ministry For Transport, Innovation and Technology
Volker Höferl
Press Spokesman for BM Ing. Norbert Hofer
711 62/ 658121
volker.hoeferl@bmvit.gv.at
www.bmvit.gv.at

AustriaTech
Katharina Schüller, MA
Head of Communications & Public Affairs
Raimundgasse 1/6, A-1020 Vienna
Telefon: +43 1 26 33 444-48
Mobil: +43 676 614 00 29
Katharina.Schueller@austriatech.at
http://www.austriatech.at

AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH
JULIANE THOß
Marketing and Communications

Center for Low-Emission Transport
Giefinggasse 2 | 1210 Vienna | Austria
T +43 50550-6322 | M +43 664 8251162 | F +43 50550-6642
juliane.thoss@ait.ac.at
http://www.ait.ac.at