

Press release

Fast and comfortable: Goldschmidt Thermit Group joins rails continuously on new Erfurt to Leipzig/Halle section of railway track

Leipzig, December 14, 2015: On December 9 the new high speed intercity connection between Erfurt and Leipzig/Halle was inaugurated. The new section is part of the new and extended railway connection from Nuremberg to Berlin within the German reunification 8 project and is a part of the trans-European transport network from Northern Italy to Scandinavia.

The [Goldschmidt Thermit Group](#) based in Leipzig provided continuously welded rails suitable for the high-speed trains which will use the new high-speed section of track ensuring a high level of comfort for rail travelers and those living near to the railway tracks. The [Elektro-Thermit GmbH & Co. KG](#), the largest subsidiary of the Goldschmidt Thermit Group with its headquarters in Halle (Saale), supplied all the products required for the joining of the rails using the THERMIT® welding process. This included the welding compounds, moulds and reaction crucibles. The new section of railway track from Erfurt to Leipzig/Halle was welded over a number of years using the THERMIT® welding process. In this project, the THERMIT® welding process for the continuous welding of tracks, patented 120 years ago, was mainly used for final welds, switches and areas near to stops.

"The high-speed section between Berlin and Nuremberg is a milestone for the region of Leipzig/Halle. Such investments have a double dividend: firstly for the region because an improved infrastructure strengthens the economy and therefore creates jobs and secondly for the companies and their employees involved in the implementation process", explains Dr. Hans-Jürgen Munding, CEO of the Goldschmidt Thermit Group. "We are involved where nobody sees us with our traditional process for the joining of rails which serves to increase the comfort and the security of rail passengers", adds Dr.-Ing. Matthias Wewel, CEO of Elektro-Thermit GmbH & Co. KG in Halle. "The THERMIT® welds are robust, lower noise levels for people living near to the track, and reduce the maintenance requirements for the operating authority."

13 billion euros are being invested in the development of the corridor between Munich and Berlin. The reunification transport projects were originally set in motion by the German government in 1991 after the reunification of Germany. The project is being realized by the [DB ProjektBau GmbH](#), a subsidiary of the [Deutschen Bahn AG](#). After conclusion of the work the traveling time from Munich to Berlin will be just 4 hours. This is roughly half of the previous time required for the same journey.

Further information of the new railway section Erfurt-Halle/Leipzig is available at www.vde8.de/de/vde-82-neubau/ueberblick.

About the Goldschmidt Thermit Group

The Goldschmidt Thermit Group is a worldwide leader in the area of joint welding and the servicing and maintenance of rail systems. The roots of the company go back to the invention of the Thermit® process by Prof. Hans Goldschmidt at the end of the 19th century. Today the Goldschmidt Thermit Group consists of over 20 medium-sized individual companies which serve the international growth market for rail infrastructure. The company has approx. 1000 employees and maintains an international network of

production and service locations. In 2014 the group achieved a consolidated turnover of more than 127 million euros.

Further information is available at www.goldschmidt-thermit.com.

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