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The First UIC Sustainability Award 2008 handed out at the 10th Conference on Environment and Sustainability in London.

Belgian Railways (SNCB Group), Danish Railways (DSB), Swedish Railways (SJ) and The Department for Transport Rail Systems UK awarded.

(Paris, 18 September 2003). The first UIC Sustainability Award was introduced at 10th edition of the Conference on Environment and Sustainability organized by the International Union of Railways (UIC) and the British Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) on 11 and 12 September in London. The aim of the awarding is to make visible and to reward the big efforts made within UIC member railways to continuously improve their sustainability performance. All projects which have been submitted for the UIC Sustainability Awards 2008 made evident that the railway sector is playing a pro-active role and is continuously improving its performance.

An independent jury: *Martina Otto*, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), *Peder Jensen*, the European Environment Agency (EEA) and *Mads Bergendorff*, Macroplan Consulting awarded four projects.

The winners of the **UIC Sustainability Award 2008** are:

1st prize: Belgian Railways (SNCB group) represented by *Willy Bontinck*, Head of Environmental Division, for their project *"Internal awareness raising campaign to save energy and increase energy efficiency"* an internal communication campaign for more energy efficiency, supported by staff appointed as 'energy watchers'. The target of the campaign is a reduction of energy consumption of 5-10% thereby bringing the company within reach of the 7.5% target set by government for 2012.

The Jury's appraisal: *The involvement and training of staff is a brilliant example of what it takes to be successful within the field of saving energy. A targeted campaign with clear objectives and already significant results achieved. The communication campaign addresses both environmental as well social aspects – a perfect example for a sustainability project*

2nd prize: Danish Railways (DSB-Tog A/S) represented by *Thomas Sjoegren*, Engineer, for the project *"Reducing the energy consumption by replacing halogen lamps with LED lamps in local trains in Copenhagen"*. The project is fully operational after testing from 15.5.2008. There is a significant reduction in auxiliary energy consumption. It is an experience with energy saving technology that can be used broadly in all lighting systems at DSB.

The Jury's appraisal: *The project has clear success criteria (energy savings), was initiated by maintenance staff and has the potential to be used in publicity. It's a rather small project but a very good example of how low hanging fruits need to be picked as well, here done very elegantly.*

3rd prize: Swedish Railways SJ represented by *Marie Hagberg*, Environmental Director, for the project *"Scrapping of old carriages in an eco-friendly way"*. Since 2004, 99% of the materials

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were sorted at source and recycled, almost no land filling, significant energy saving from recycling of materials, energy recovery, etc.

The Jury's appraisal: The scrapping of vehicles has been in the focus for several EU projects in the last decade but there exist only very few best practice examples so far. To recycle 99% of the material is far ahead of the legal requirement and the benchmark of the road sector with the end-of-life vehicle directive. This project needed collective efforts to actually scrap vehicles in a responsible way. This has required determination which SJ has shown here with a very good result.

Special Prize of the Jury: The Department for Transport Rail Systems (UK) represented by Mark Gaynor, Rail Environment Policy Adviser, for the project "*UK rail carbon trajectory*". The project consists in establishing in a cross industry collaboration a database clearly describing carbon emissions from train operations allowing policy makers to gain insight into trends and drivers for change. The project allows a transparent comparison of developments and better spreading of best operational practices among operators in Great Britain. It defines scenarios and a road-map to carbon efficient train operation in the UK.

The Jury's appraisal: *The holistic thinking behind this initiative and the multi stakeholder initiative deserves appreciation and allows rail to make its case based on transparent data. This will facilitate more rational decision making and foster cross industry programs on better operational practices for rail.*

Ian Papworth, Head of Engineering of the British Association of Railway Companies (ATOC) commented that "an award presentation stimulates a lot of interest across the Environment and Sustainability professionals with its emphasis on implementation. This innovation should be applauded along with the efforts of the Members of the Jury and of course of organizers Henning Schwartz and Margrethe Sagevik".

With the creation of the UIC Sustainability Award, UIC expressed its willingness of encouraging railways' progress in the sustainability field.
Already now we are looking for to the submissions for the 2nd UIC Sustainability Award in two years!

You'll find the full appraisal of the Jury as well as the description of the awarded projects on the dedicated website: www.uic-environment.org/award.html

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