

## Press release

### 10th International Brunel Awards

#### UIC and Watford Group award distinctions for outstanding design and architecture in the rail sector at Vienna ceremony – special prize for ÖBB

(Vienna, 30 September 2008) – A prestigious international jury in Vienna chaired by the famous French architect Dominique Perrault today awarded the 10th Brunel Awards for outstanding design and architecture in the rail sector. The 15 prizes and 15 commendations were awarded in the categories of “Architecture”, “Industrial Design, Graphics and Art”, “Technical Infrastructure and Environment” and “Rolling Stock”. For the first time, the special prize for outstanding achievement in all categories was won by ÖBB. A total of 32 railway companies from 18 countries and 3 continents had submitted 161 entries to compete for the prestigious titles. The invitation to compete in and the bestowal of the 10th Brunel Awards were organised by the Watford Group for railway design in conjunction with ÖBB and with UIC, the International Union of Railways.

#### Showcase of design and architectural talent in the railways

The Brunel Awards were founded in 1985 by the Watford Group and are awarded on an irregular basis, every two to four years. The aim of these international distinctions is to promote high-quality design in the railways and further increase the railways’ attractiveness for their customers. The prizes are named after the British engineer and railway pioneer Isambard Kingdom Brunel (1806 - 1859), most famous for building the Great Western Railway. Examples of Brunel’s innovation are his numerous railway structures, in particular bridges, stations and tunnels, which in Victorian England were considered marvels of technical prowess and design.

The Brunel Awards reward achievement in all areas of railway activity, from stations to technical infrastructure (e.g. bridges and signalboxes) to locomotives and wagons/coaches. Unlike other design and architecture prizes, however, the Brunel Awards are conferred exclusively upon the project commissioner. As Andreas Heym, General Secretary of the Watford Group says, “The Watford Group’s concern was to encourage railway companies to invest more in architecture and design. The Brunel Awards have in this regard been a success – as the 161 submissions demonstrate”. The group is an international association of architects and designers working in the railways. At the annual Watford Conference, members exchange thoughts on the latest developments in the field of railway architecture and design.

#### Looking forward to the railway of the future

Since their inception, the Brunel Awards have established themselves as the most prestigious such prize in the rail sector. Correspondingly, the submissions themselves always provide a showcase of international design talent in the railways. The Jury for the Brunel Awards was impressed by the quality and vision of the entries. In the words of Jury Chairman, the architect *Dominique Perrault*: *“My colleagues and I were delighted to examine the projects submitted. The railways are part of our daily lives and yet we generally pay this transport mode far too little attention. The Brunel Awards afforded us an exciting glimpse of the future of the railways. The projects we have singled out today show the way ahead to be one of interesting, people-friendly and environmentally-aware railway structures.”*

Alongside French architect Perrault, the other seven members of the Jury included the well-known Viennese architect Marta Schreieck, the industrial designer Gerald Kiska, the author, critic and architect Christian Kühn from Vienna, and Klaus Bollinger, the German Professor of



Structural Design. UIC was represented on the Jury by its Director of Communications Paul Veron from France, Infrastructure Director Gerard Dalton from Ireland, and Railway Undertakings Director Oliver Sellnick from Germany.

### **UIC, a strong partner**

For the first time, the International Union of Railways (UIC) this year took part in the invitation to compete in and organisation of the Brunel Awards. This helped strengthen the competition's focus on the standpoints of railway companies and their customers. UIC Chief Executive *Luc Aliadière* sees in the prizes an important source of impetus for the railways worldwide: *"Good design and innovative architecture raise the profile and attractiveness of the railways for their customers. The Brunel Awards enable international comparison of design standards within the rail sector, and set new benchmarks."*

### **Special Award for ÖBB**

For the first time, ÖBB was awarded first prize for outstanding and sustained achievement in all fields of railway design. The Jury substantiated its decision, citing ÖBB's "pro-active quality approach in all areas of the rail business." This sees Austria's railways transformed from a fair-to-middling company to an international exemplar of rail design in only a short space of time. Austria's example will hopefully encourage other countries to boost their railways by investing in design, service and presentation. *Peter Klugar*, CEO of ÖBB Holding AG, accepted the Special Award on behalf of the company. In his acceptance speech he emphasised ÖBB's intention to continue the successes of recent years: *"Quality and comfort will determine whether the railways can successfully compete against other transport modes such as road and air transport. Outstanding architecture and new ideas in design make a key contribution to improving quality still further. They are also important to our customers – as customer service questionnaires regularly make clear to us. It is well worth investing in the design quality of the railways!"*

### **Exhibition in Vienna's Museumsquartier**

All 161 submissions for the Brunel Awards will be displayed in the Ovalhalle in Vienna's Museumsquartier from 30 September until 3 October. The projects give a taste of the state of the art in railway architecture and design. The exhibition is open daily from 9am – 4pm. The submissions may also be viewed online: [www.oebb.at/brunelawards](http://www.oebb.at/brunelawards)



## **The 10th Brunel Awards: prizewinners**

### **Special Brunel Jury Prize**

ÖBB received the special prize for outstanding and sustained achievement in all areas of railway design over several years.

### **Brunel Awards, Category 1 - Architecture**

80 projects were submitted as entries to this category, of which 10 received a Brunel Award.

- SNCF / France: multi-modal transport hub, Strasbourg
- SNCF / France: Renovation of Paris Est Station
- DB / Germany: renovation of the historic roof of Dresden Central Station
- CIE / Ireland: Tara Street Station – southern exit
- Kyushu Railway Company / Japan: Hyugashi Station
- London & Continental Railway Ltd. / Great Britain: St Pancras International, London
- Pro Rail / Netherlands: Amsterdam Bijlmer-Arena Station
- SBB / Switzerland: Zug rapid-transit system
- SBB / Switzerland: Basel Dreispitz Station
- ÖBB: Innsbruck Central Station

### **Brunel Awards, Category 2 – Industrial Design, Graphics and Art**

39 projects were submitted as entries to this category, of which 2 received a Brunel Award.

- ÖBB: Graz Central Station – creative design of the entrance hall
- East Japan Railway Company / Japan: Design concept for toilets in railway stations

### **Brunel Awards, Category 3 – Technical Infrastructure and Environment**

18 projects were submitted as entries to this category, of which 2 received a Brunel Award.

- BLS / Alpintransit AG / Switzerland: Lötschberg Base Tunnel
- SBB/ Switzerland: Olten Staff Restaurant, Tannwald

### **Brunel Awards, Category 4 – Rolling Stock**

Of 24 submissions, one was selected for an award.

- DB / Germany: ICE 1 modernisation



## Commendations

An additional 15 commendations were awarded for projects providing effective solutions to specific challenges or containing individual ideas of particular interest.

### Commendations, Category 1 - Architecture

- ÖBB / Austria: Dornbirn Station
- Chinese Ministry of Railways / China: Shanghai South Station
- East Japan Railway Company / Japan: Hoshakuji Station
- SNCF / France: TGV Meuse Voie Savrée Station
- DB / Germany: Berlin Central Station
- MAV / Hungary: Szeged Station – reconstruction of entrance hall and renovation of the Lotz hall at Keleti Station, Budapest
- SBB / Switzerland: Lausanne Station – renovation of hall
- SBB / Switzerland: Swiss Museum of Transport, Lucerne
- SBB / Switzerland: Improvement of Hardbrücke Station, Zürich

### Commendations, Category 2 – Industrial Design, Graphics and Art

- East Japan Railway Company / Japan: information display on large screens
- SNCF / France: "Achemine" – barrier-free typeface able to be read by all

### Commendations, Category 3 – Technical Infrastructure and Environment

- Pro Rail / Netherlands: Eefde rail bridge
- Pro Rail / Netherlands: noise protection screens in Utrecht

### Commendations, Category 4 – Rolling Stock

- Odakyu Electric Railway / Japan: ROMANCECAR 60000 MSE multi-purpose commuter train
- Kyushu Railway Company / Japan: Refitting of the Caldera Liner Aso from 1962

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