What next? Current developments of Deutsche Bahn
12th UIC Workshop on Railway Noise & Vibrations

Paris, March 19th 2019

Deutsche Bahn AG | DB Environment | Martina Fleckenstein
Noise protection is a central company goal of DB: Halving rail traffic noise by 2020 is based on two approaches:

**Infrastructure**

2,000 track kilometers will be upgraded

**Freight wagons**

63,000 silent freight wagons from DB Cargo*

*Total, nationwide effect only through retrofitting of all wagons running in Germany by domestic and foreign wagon keepers and railway undertaking (approx. 180,000 freight wagons)
We are on schedule to achieve our goal of halving rail traffic noise by 2020

- Ca. 740 kilometers noise barriers built
- Ca. 60,640 apartments equipped with passive measures
- Ca. 50,400 silent freight wagons

Status at the end of 2018
For the period after 2020, we focus on innovative technologies, research and development.

Due to the cancellation of the rail bonus of 5 dB(A) and the reduction of the trigger values by 3 dB(A), a fundamental revision of the noise abatement program on existing lines was published in January 2019. This is an enormous challenge due to the higher level of protection for more residents.

The new national funding guideline of the noise abatement program on existing lines supports the use of innovative technologies, in particular to increase the acceptance of noise mitigation measures by local residents.

The German “Railway Noise Mitigation Act” prohibits the use of noisy freight wagons from 2020.

High maintenance costs for active noise abatement measures on track and for vehicles and innovations require further research. DB therefore welcomes the Centre for Rail Transport Research, which was established by the German Federal Government.
The future belongs only to a quiet railway. Noise protection remains a permanent task.

Thank you for your attention!