IREE 2019, THE LARGEST EVER WITH PARTICIPATION OF 500 COMPANIES FROM 26 COUNTRIES

The 13th Edition of IREE 2019 – International Railway Equipment Exhibition – organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in association with Indian Railways, was held from 22nd to 24th October, 2019 at Aero City, New Delhi, India. IREE is now Asia’s Premier Global Event for the Rail Transportation sector.
IREE 2019: challenges well met, for higher future benchmarks

The challenges were formidable as CII looked at organizing the 13th IREE at a greenfield location (due to ongoing construction at the Pragati Maidan that provided built-up areas and pre-set facilities for such events). It is a privilege to report that the team IREE worked methodically and IREE 2019 has been a success on all fronts: in terms of the quality of space provided, range and attention of the exhibitors, footfalls, new features, business-to-business facilitation and a 2 day international conference that set new benchmarks for its depth and range of presentations and attendance. The layout of the stalls and innovative product displays have been appreciated.

With this, the bar for the next event in 2021 has been raised and the event will further match the best of such railway events anywhere in the world.

The special focus was on rail furnishing, infrastructure and Metro + light rail.

Let the numbers speak:

- 496 exhibitors, 126 from overseas; 45 first time participants,
- Exhibitors from 26 countries, with Japan, Germany, China and Russia setting up country pavilions
- Enlarged exhibition area of 25 000 square meters filled in.
- Footfalls recorded: 16 800, including 1450 foreigners
- 2150 B2B Meetings facilitated
- 640 Delegates; 10 Sessions; 40 speakers at the two-day conference

An integrated approach

Past IREE events were partially segregated into mainline and Metro/urban transport sections. This year we presented an integrated show, both in the exhibition and the conference - the approach was to provide a boost to Brand Railways. We have succeeded in that direction as many participants have footprints on the main lines as well as the Metros.

Special features

- Several companies displayed new products, some at them concept stage, adding to the impact that IREE 2019 has resulted in. The growing number of new participants, often from the MSME sector, has furthered the vendor base for the Indian rail industry. This effort has been aided by CII providing B2B facilitation, that resulted in about 2150 short visitor meetings that lay the base for business expansion.
- The international stage
  - IREE provided a grand launch for the signing of an MoU between RITES and Government of Ghana for RITES working on expansion projects of their network. In his special speech, the Ghana Minister indicated their vison of significant growth in coming years, of which RITES will be a prime part. This should bring in good business for Indian manufacturers in the coming years.
  - On the sidelines, closed door interaction of German and Russian delegations was organised with Railway Board.
  - Business delegations from Bangladesh, South Kora, Switzerland, Japan, Spain and Myanmar visited and were impressed with this show that matches any international standards.

IR IS TRANSFORMING AS NEVER BEFORE

Our capacity constraints that have impacted industrial growth have been addressed, with concentrated attention to congested high density networks. A mega project of Rs 13 000 Crore upgrade speeds on the Delhi Kolkata and Delhi-Mumbai routes is now in hand. Multiplying tracks on these routes is a priority and we are confident of decongesting all these sections in next 4 years. The addition of four new dedicated freight corridors, about 5800km, is a possibility a detailed survey are now well in hand. Th recent effort at privatizing passenger train operations through Tejas Express is a pointer also the cahrnys likely. IR plans to call for offers for 150 such trains.

The passenger trains need speeding up and IR has plans to migrate to jus to speed definitions: existing tracks to move up to 160 kph and the HSR tracks at 320 kph.

VK Yadav, Chairman, IR Board
International Railway Conference: For the first time, CII provided an integrated 2-day conference spread over 10 sessions, with well-planned themes and sets of panelists for each theme. Key speakers included Shri Suresh C. Angadi, Minister of State of Railways, Government of India, Mr Joe Ghartey, Minister for Railway Development, Government of Ghana, Dr V K Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, Mr V K Yadav, Chairman, Railway Board, Prof Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Members of the Railway Board including Mr Rajesh Agrawal, Mr Vishwesh Chaube, Mr Pradeep Kumar and Mr Manoj Pande, Ms Sumita Dawra, Joint Secretary, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry Mr. Aung Win, General Manager, Myanmar Railways, Mr Atul Agarwal, Senior Transport Specialist, World Bank, CMDs from PSUs including SAIL, BHEL, CRIS, DFCCIL, PRCL, RITES and other senior Railway Board officials. The Conference with the theme: Indian Railway - Riding High the Technology Wave focussed mainly on Rail Infrastructure, Global Trends in Technology, Logistics, Energy Efficiency, Environment, Make in India and Exports Potential.

A special study

CII had commissioned Ernst and Young for a special study on the growth potential of the sector and industry outlook for the Railway sector, and the report was released by the Minister of State of Railways. The report projects railways as a driver of future growth, examines issues in the passenger sector and contemplates strategies for augmenting the infrastructure. An important first is a survey of rail and industry executives on the perception of sector growth and future possibilities.

Indian Railway participation

The show gained from very active IR participation right from the planning stages. Many senior IR managers and technologists participate in the Conference. initial feedback for the exhibitors is one of satisfaction with visits by IR engineers and managers. IR shows covered a larger area than ever before. CII recorded visits by 460 IR officials.

‘Ghana is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world and is on the cusp of becoming one of the most developed countries in Africa. The country intends to transform the nation by transforming the railways and is looking forward to implementing new ideas and technologies. Ghana aims to develop 4000 km of the rail network in the next 10 years and India is going to play a crucial role in the development of this modern rail network.’

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ghanaian Ministry for Railway Development and RITES, the Indian public sector unit that has handled several such projects in Ghana and other countries.
Suresh C Angadi, Minister of State for Railways, released a special report by Ernst & Young /CII on railways’ growth and prospects. The well-researched report carries what may well be the first-time survey amongst rail-based Indian industries.

Summarised survey results:

- There is a unanimous perception of past and future growth trends in railways sector.
- Aligned to expectations on sectoral growth, rail sector leaders envisage growth in their individual companies.
- Majority of the sector leaders anticipate high capital investments by Indian Railways to drive growth in the sector.
- More than 25% of the companies surveyed plan to increase investment in India by over 15%. The investments are mainly targeted towards capacity addition and talent development.
- Almost two-third of the companies expect to increase their exports from India in the next five years by close to 10%.
- Most sector leaders aim to increase international collaborations to develop state-of-the-art and export-ready products and technologies.
- Automation in manufacturing is the way forward as per most of the railway sector leaders. Automation is not expected to result in a loss of jobs.
- The main reasons for adopting automation in manufacturing are to drive process and product quality.
- While most companies envisage induction of automated technologies in manufacturing, availability of manpower and cost competitiveness are considered the main advantages of operating in India.
- There is a mixed response on the ability of India to export railway products to the global market, with a majority of industry leader taking a neutral view.
- There is a unanimous view that policy intervention is required from Ministry of Railways to encourage manufacturing in the sector.
Aiding railways in multiple ways

"It has been our endeavour to provide complete world class mobility solution for Indian & Global railways, with aided emphasis under the ‘Make in India’ program. In this endeavour, Jupiter has been in forefront of technology innovation with partners like TatraVagonka, the leading manufacturer of freight wagon in Europe, DAKO-O2, the leading high-speed brake producer, KDDVS, the renowned brake disc manufacturer and TalleresAlegría for weldable CMS crossings."

... Vivek Lobha, Director, Jupiter Wagons, Kolkata, a leading Indian manufacturer of freight wagons and CMS crossings.

AIS float glass is approved for IR applications. The wide product line includes:

- Laminated windshield per UIC 651 that is multi-layered, with noise reduction and UV protection. These are offered in flat or curved profiles, with or without frame (heated windshield – flat)
- Energy saving integrated window and door glass that reduces heat build-up in summer & heat loss in winter, lowers UV transmission & noise penetration and increased wind load strength. These are available in large range of tint and value addition, with or without framing.
- Tempered glass, extremely strong glass, with enhanced temperature resistance and better safety features, flat or curved and drought screen glass.
- Interiors glasses available in different design in pattern, decorative/printed glass, station architecture glass and cab side windows.

"IR has now been able to significantly reduce the frequent longitudinal jerks faced during runs on its LHB stock"

Deliver now offer couplers, gangways, front hatches, dampers and assured crash safety management, besides extraordinary aftermarket service all over the world.

"Quality and prompt delivery remain our number one focus along with our relationship with the car builders and operators in all regions. Strategic investments in the expansion of our existing product portfolio and new product areas like freight and digitalization will also get our full attention during the coming year, ensuring our place as market leader."

... Manvinderjit Singh, Deltner India.
The IRC and the IREE are the biggest platform for public units, private enterprises and foreign delegations to come together and create a grand impact for the future. The CII Rail Division is happy to bring together all the stakeholders to discuss new technologies and global developments for modernizing the railways in India.

A P Garg
Managing Director, Knorr-Bremse India

Events like the IREE are very key events and customer touchpoints as we explore new product concepts and search new markets and new segments. Railway markets abroad present big business opportunities for us at Escorts. We value these three days of interactions, contacts and questions and answers. We will be privileged to hear from you.

Dipankar Ghosh
CEO, Escorts RED

As India strives towards its goal for 100% electrification of its railway network, Delta Electronics stances as a reliable emerging partner to bring its technical expertise and strong local presence to the best utilization. Delta has applied its proven expertise of power conversion & management for application in the railway domain, which is witnessing exponential growth. We shall capitalize our strong local manufacturing setup and high-power indigenous R&D base to serve the needs of rail infrastructure partnering the Make in India initiative of GOI. We have made steady progress in the areas of Railway Traction in India and will continue to invest in rolling stock propulsion & power quality solutions to serve the Indian & global rail market in the future.

R. Om Prakash,
Managing Director, Delta Electronics India

Siemens is at the forefront of leading this technology wave with solutions such as MTCS, propulsion equipment for electric locomotives and commuter trains, electrification and signalling for Metros, and Intermodal as well as digital transport solutions. These will make the infrastructure and trains intelligent, increase the operational reliability and availability, improve life cycle costs and enhance overall safety.

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Anand Chidambaram
Chairman, CII Rail Division
& Managing Director, Progress Rail, India

Ever-increasing urbanization in India has led to the widening of the gap in demand for infrastructure availability. It is estimated that 390 million people would be moving to urban settlement by 2030, that shall need smart mobility solutions in rail-based transport both in urban and intercity transport of goods and passengers.

Girish Rao
CEO, HARTING India

Congratulations to CII for organizing such a mega event in a completely new place in association with Indian Railways. HARTING India is very pleased to be here as one of the sponsors of this event & we look forward to meeting entire railway fraternity.

Events like the IREE is an excellent platform to showcase new technological developments and solutions.

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TOWARDS PASSENGER COACHES THAT INVITE AND PLEASE

In recent years IR has launched several schemes with generous funding for upgrade of interior finish, seating and ambience and environment issues and these are now bearing results. The acronyms may be confusing, but the results are there to see. Various zones and production units have been entrusted measured targets for implementation. As a typical example that echoes across IR zones, Northern Railway (NR) initiatives cover:

Project ‘Utkrisht’ for upgrading old ICF Coaches. IR is slated to cover 640 passenger rakes at Rs 400 Cr funding over the next two years.

Salient features
- External PU painting as per new scheme.
- Vinyl wrapping of doorways and gangways.
- Zero deficiency of passenger interface items.
- Dustbins in doorways and toilets.
- Provision of venturi and high capacity exhaust fans, odour control and hygiene devices

Refurbishment of ICF (AC & non-AC) coaches to improve aesthetics of coaches and passenger amenities. NR has completed work on 10 rakes out of the 64 rakes planned; right now, work is in hand on 3 rakes. The zone has issued LoAs for 51 rakes.

‘Project Swarn’ for upgrading premium trains like Rajdhani, Shatabadi & Gatiman Express to a ‘Gold Standard’. 22 (out of 27 rakes) have already been upgraded.

Salient features
- E-leather seats
- Vinyl wrapped interiors
- Designed lavatories for differently abled / senior citizens.
- CCTV surveillance in each coach.
- Disposable head rest covers.
- Odour control in toilets through Auto-janitor.

These new looks are based also on adoption of better suited materials. A senior design executive listed the following that have been adopted in full or partially:

- Aluminium Composite Panels - 3mm thick: durable and recyclable material confirming to tough fire standards.
- Improved FRP panels with decorative finish
- FRP and stainless modules: 3-piece module that can be assembled inside the coach; comes with anti-graffiti finish. Plus, branded pipe fittings and concealed piping.
- Vacuum evacuation system discharges toilet waste to bio tanks. Keeps the toilet neat and clean. Implemented on AC coaches and will be proliferated to all coaches in a phased manner.
- Silicon foam - Silicon foam as cushioning material for seats and berths. This is fireproof and long-lasting cushion material without any permanent set.
- A new PU foam cushion has been developed confirming to international fire standard EN45545. Usage to start soon.
Memorable Takeaways From IREE

The National Rail Museum (NRM), New Delhi is the most prominent Indian institution that preserves and displays the historical heritage of railways in India. Since its IREE participation in 2011, NRM has always displayed different themes related to heritage and expansion of the rail system in India. We are now again geared up and excited, with a special showcase on rail stations serving Lucknow.

The exhibits are created primarily to reflect and rejuvenate the essence of Lucknow’s Charbagh Railway station, to harmonise with the architecture in the days of the Nawabs of Oudh. As the name says, the location was a large orchard (or maybe four!) before the rail station came up. Designed by JH Hornimen, the foundation was laid in 1914 and completed nine years later. Our IREE 2019 exhibits are a replication of the Charbagh station to reveal its Mughal architectural design with red brick arches, domes and minarets. A peculiar fact for this 105-year-old building is that no façade alteration has been carried out since its inception. The station was a part of the Oudh Rohilkhand Railway at one time.

These exhibits showcase all four railway stations: Lucknow NR (LKO), Lucknow Junction (LJN), Lucknow City (LCY) and Aishbagh (ASH). This four-station model has been created to display the multiple hues of the heritage of the Lucknow city. The exhibits cover various railway aspects, including rolling stock, bridges, built structures, etc. through thematic presentations.
ASIA'S LARGEST RAIL TRANSPORTATION EVENT

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The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering industry, Government, and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.

CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, playing a proactive role in India’s development process. Founded in 1895, India’s premier business association has more than 9100 members, from the private as well as public sectors, including SMEs and MNCs, and an indirect membership of over 300,000 enterprises from 291 national and regional sectoral industry bodies.

CII charts change by working closely with Government on policy issues, interfacing with thought leaders, and enhancing efficiency, competitiveness and business opportunities for industry through a range of specialized services and strategic global linkages. It also provides a platform for consensus-building and networking on key issues.

Extending its agenda beyond business, CII assists industry to identify and execute corporate citizenship programmes. Partnerships with civil society organizations carry forward corporate initiatives for integrated and inclusive development across diverse domains including affirmative action, healthcare, education, livelihood, diversity management, skill development, empowerment of women, and water, to name a few.

India is now set to become a US$ 5 trillion economy in the next five years and Indian industry will remain the principal growth engine for achieving this target. With the theme for 2019-20 as ‘Competitiveness of India Inc - India@75: Forging Ahead’, CII will focus on five priority areas which would enable the country to stay on a solid growth track. These are - employment generation, rural-urban connect, energy security, environmental sustainability and governance.

With 68 offices, including 9 Centres of Excellence, in India, and 11 overseas offices in Australia, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Indonesia, Singapore, South Africa, UAE, UK, and USA, as well as institutional partnerships with 394 counterpart organizations in 133 countries, CII serves as a reference point for Indian industry and the international business community.