

Press release

Metropolitan area of central Germany benefits from new high-speed intercity rail link between Berlin and Munich / Goldschmidt Themit Group increases comfort for travelers and residents living close to the track

Leipzig/Halle, December 8, 2017: December 10, 2017 marks the inauguration of the high-speed German intercity (ICE) rail link of Deutsche Bahn between Berlin und Munich. The expansion and partly new rail link constructed within the scope of German Unity Transport Project 8 is a key component of the trans-European transport network ranging from Italy to Scandinavia and from France to eastern Europe. With effect from next week the transit time between Munich and Berlin will be slashed to just roughly 4 hours and in future it will be possible to travel from Dresden to Frankfurt on Main in just over 4 hours.

The [Goldschmidt Themit Group](#) with headquarters in Leipzig provided continuously welded rails for the new railway section to ensure a high level of comfort and safety for travelers and residents living near the railway tracks. The [Elektro-Thermit GmbH & Co. KG](#), the largest subsidiary of the Goldschmidt Themit Group with headquarters in Halle (Saale) supplied all the products required for joining the rails using the THERMIT® welding process. This includes, for example, the welding compound, molds and reaction crucibles. The new rail section was welded using THERMIT® over a number of years. In this project the THERMIT® welding process for the continuous joining of rails was used mainly for final welds, on switches and at stops and stations.

"The commissioning of the high-speed rail link helps bring Germany and Europe closer together. This is a milestone for the regions of Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia and the hub locations of Leipzig, Halle and Erfurt. A good infrastructure is a decisive factor for economic development. It supports companies and helps to create new jobs. We can see the effects of this with our customers and our employees. Leipzig, Halle and Erfurt are now more easily accessible and have therefore become more attractive", explains Dr. Hans-Jürgen Mundinger, CEO of the Goldschmidt Themit Group.

"Our contribution to the project is relatively small in comparison to the total investment, but results in big advantages for passengers and residents living close to the railway tracks", emphasizes Dr.-Ing. Matthias Wewel, CEO of Elektro-Thermit GmbH & Co. KG in Halle. "Our traditional THERMIT® welding process joins rails in such a way as to increase the traveling comfort and safety for passengers. In addition, THERMIT® welds have a long service life, reduce the amount of maintenance required for the operator and reduce the noise emissions for residents living next to the railway track. As a result, in the long term the Deutsche Bahn has a service which is fast, quiet, safe and more cost-effective."

"Our THERMIT® and the corresponding equipment is produced in Halle and delivered from there to the whole world. We have invested considerably in the R&D of the Goldschmidt Themit Group here in Saxony", says Dr. Mundinger. "Our Technology Innovation Center was inaugurated in Leipzig two years ago and this is where we are doing fundamental research and development to help us play a leading role when it comes to the modern railway infrastructure required for high-speed rail links and public transport networks."

A total of 13 billion euros was invested in the construction of the rail link from Berlin to Munich. The German Unity Transport Project was initiated by the German federal government in 1991 after the

reunification of the country. The project is being realized by the [DB ProjektBau GmbH](#), a subsidiary of [Deutsche Bahn AG](#).

Further information on the extended and new Berlin to Munich rail link is available at www.vde8.de.

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 2016 the group achieved a consolidated turnover of more than 140 million euros.

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

Press contact

Matthias Struwe | Eye Communications | Agency for Press and Public Relations

Phone: +49 761 1376221 | Fax: +49 761 1376224

Email: m.struwe@eyecommunications.de