



“The Future Awaits Our Departure!” with HyperLoop

In the session moderated by Erciyas Holding CEO K. Emre Erciyas, held as part of the first day program of EurasiaRail, which opened its doors at Istanbul Expo Center on June 21 and brought the railway sector together for 3 days, Hyperloop TT CEO Andrés de Leon shared his knowledge about Hyperloop technology and gave hopeful messages in the development of this technology.

The opening ceremony of the 10th International Railway, Light Rail Systems and Logistics Fair Eurasia Rail was held with the valuable participation of state officials, country representatives and leading names of the sector, especially the **Turkish Republic Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Abdulkadir Uraloğlu** and **TCDD (Turkish State Railways) General Manager Hasan Pezük**. The exhibition, which started with the opening speech of **Kemal Ülgen, General Manager of ICA Events Türkiye**, will take the pulse of the industry for 3 days.

Hyperloop project leader and Hyperloop CEO Andrés Leon made the following statements at the Hyperloop project “**Veneto, Italy Hypertransfer Project**” session to be held in Italy: “The Hypertransfer project will be the first Hyperloop project developed as a full commercial system in the world. As you know, there hasn't been a big move and breakthrough in transportation for almost 100 years. When we think about urban mobility, our aim is not only to establish a profitable and efficient system, but also to be an efficient and effective, sustainable and economically viable system in terms of energy use. And of course we want it to deliver huge improvements in the passenger experience.”

Talking about the concept of passive magnetic levitation and stating that it will break new ground in transportation, **Leon** continued: “*This is not just about technology, but about the product as well. Today we have reached such a stage that we are now implementing our projects in different countries around the world. We work with many companies while developing the technology and at the same time the product, and together with all these companies, we have created an important complete ecosystem. Now Hyperloop is considered a mass transit system. An impact assessment and guidance will be published in the last quarter of 2024. It is foreseen that a 10 km passenger and freight system will be installed in 2028. Actually, this is an attempt to create a commercial line. Italy is currently shaping the future of transport and is a pioneer in this field. After demonstrating and certifying the first 10 km here, an extension will be made to the line.*”

The Future Awaits Our Departure!

Leon continued his statements, “*This project has a budget of 8 million euros. We have worked together with our technology partners webuild, LEONARDO and RIA. The purpose of the consortium formed with these partners: ‘Passenger transport, fast transport, oil aerodynamic resistance and low energy consumption.’ The combination of all these elements means Hyperloop. We will be able to ensure its technical and economic survival after the completion of the first 10 km project. Then this technology will be developed worldwide. I am not talking about a project that will be created in 10 years, but a project*



that has started and is being carried out. We will see them in 2028. We will provide low, renewable energy, a fast system and profitable transportation. The first thing we had to do for Hyperloop to be accepted all over the world was to prove that it could be done, and we created this step. The future awaits our departure!."

TCDD General Manager and Chairman of the Board of Directors Hasan PEZÜK took the floor in the session titled **"Capturing the Age in the Railway Sector"** moderated by **PROF. DR. M. TURAN SÖYLEMEZ**. **Pezük** stated, *"Things such as increasing fuel prices, traffic congestion, and emission values around the world make public transportation attractive compared to individual journeys. When we look at our country from a geostrategic point of view, it is at the intersection of three continents, has advantages in terms of transportation and logistics and has very important advantages in terms of geographical location. Again, our country is in a very important position in the center of a geography where more than 1.5 billion people live, a gross national product of approximately 40 trillion dollars, a trade volume of 7.5 billion dollars, and 67 countries can be reached. World trade, which is 12 billion tons in 2020, will reach 25 billion tons in 2030; In 2050, we expect it to reach a very important value of 95 billion tons."*

In the same session, ARUS (Anatolian Rail Systems Cluster) Coordinator Dr. İlhami Pektaş talked about the rise in the development of exports by emphasizing the efforts of locality and nationality in production. **Pektaş** stated, *"In the 10th, 11th and 12th development plans, locality and nationality are now completely settled in Turkish industry. It has become a state policy and we have launched 16 national brands since 2012. These 16 national brands, 238 rail system vehicles are currently in service successfully in Bursa, İstanbul, Kayseri, Kocaeli, Samsun, Antalya and İzmir. Soon it will start to serve in Gaziantep as well. We have become an annual export of 750 million dollars, not only domestically, but also to 25 countries within 10 years. If we look at our local national brands here, we see the Panorama, Greencity Tram and Silkworm Tram produced by Durmazlar; There is the Talas Tram produced by Bozankaya, the HSL 700 Hybrid Locomotive produced by Turasaş, the E100 Electric Maneuver locomotive and the national electric train set, and the driverless metro vehicle produced by Bozankaya. We also have a battery-powered tram produced by Bozankaya, which we export to Romania and it received the European Innovation award. Currently, we have 12 businesses in urban rail systems. Rail system vehicles, which have zero percent domestic contribution in İstanbul, reached the level of 60% today."*

TÜRASAŞ General Manager and Chairman of the Board of Directors MUSTAFA METİN YAZAR said, *"Türasaş produces vehicles that comply with the European Union norms, together with current and valid standards, in order to catch up with the era. We entered into a serious breakthrough with the railways becoming a state policy. We currently have 13,900 km of line, which will reach 28,000 km in the next 15 years. Therefore, twice as many vehicles will enter these lines. Our state, as a precaution, established Türasaş to develop capacity and we took a position to develop this potential. To meet this potential, you must have a domestic portfolio so that you can meet this need. At this point, we also took on duties,"* and stated that they will continue their work at full speed.

TÜBİTAK RUTE (Rail Transportation Technologies Institute) Institute Director Tolgahan Kaya said, *"We envision a scene like autonomous trains, trains communicating with each other. To catch up with the era in railways, you need to increase not only technology but also infrastructure, you need to increase high-speed trains. And you need to do this with sustainable technology. You have to take a step on the path of digitalization yourself. TCDD, being aware of this, examined good examples in the Far East on how to capture advanced technology in railways. It has been seen that all of them are progressing with an institute. In the examples in Korea and China, it was*



seen that they collaborated with institutes to reach high technology. In this context, TCDD needed to establish an institute in order to catch up with this trend in the world in the name of progress and digitalization. We, as RUTE, have become Türkiye's first and only research institute in the field of rail transportation technologies, with this mission given by TCDD, to be a pioneer in the transformation of mobility and to meet the needs of TCDD and Turasař."

International Railway, Light Rail Systems and Logistics Fair-Eurasia Rail with a full program of events continues on day 2.

For press information: Bersay Communication Consultancy
Ayben Cumali, +90 554 84468 05, ayben.cumali@bersay.com.tr