



DPD reduces CO₂ emissions with aerodynamic semi-trailers

Aschaffenburg / Melle, 17 March 2011 – International parcel and express service provider DPD is now using four semi-trailers with high levels of energy efficiency on the route between Melle (near Osnabrück in Lower Saxony / Germany) and Barcelona. The aim is to save around 100 tonnes of CO₂ per year. These savings will above all be achieved by state-of-the-art aerodynamics. The semi-trailers are in operation five days a week in overnight depot-to-depot transport operations, on a route operated by Diebel Spedition GmbH on behalf of DPD.

The use of semi-trailers with noticeably improved aerodynamics enables lower fuel consumption, which in turn reduces CO₂ emissions. Further improvements such as lower road resistance on the part of the tyres and lower vehicle weight reinforced the savings. The permitted overall weight is 38 tonnes, with a payload of 25 tonnes.

"Within Europe DPD relies almost 100% on road transport and as a result almost completely avoids the use of air transport, which generates up to 8 times more CO₂ emissions", explains Dr. Armin Bohnhoff, Director Technology & Operations at DPD GeoPost (Deutschland), adding: "This makes it all the more important for us to exploit all the savings potentials which are offered by long-distance transport".

Planned participation in the field trials for long trucks

For the purpose of reducing CO₂ emissions further, DPD and Diebel Spedition GmbH wish to participate in the field trials for long trucks which are planned in Germany, and will also be using the newly-tested semi-trailers for this purpose. Dr. Bohnhoff is convinced that: "A combination of long trucks and fuel-saving components will enable DPD to achieve a significant reduction in emissions per parcel. This is why I am appealing to our politicians to create the necessary framework conditions for this as soon as possible."

Press release

Long trucks are truck and trailer rigs which can weigh up to 44 tonnes and reach up to 25.25 metres in length. At the moment such long trucks are not allowed on Germany's roads. However, two long trucks can carry the same amount of freight as three conventional trucks, which means a reduction in fuel consumption and CO₂ savings of 20 per cent. The five-year trial run planned by the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development is aimed at testing how long trucks perform in traffic, and to what extent they enable savings in CO₂ emissions.

Regardless of the combination with long trucks, DPD is also looking at the use of the energy-efficient semi-trailers used between Melle and Barcelona on other international long-distance routes. This is a further step on the road to more ecological sustainability in DPD's operational processes. Further elements of this strategy are, for example, the use of electric vehicles for local deliveries and the use of rail in intermodal transport, all backed up by efficient network planning.





Photo: The significantly improved aerodynamic features of the new semi-trailer – shown here on the site of the DPD depot in Melle near Osnabrück – enable CO₂ reductions of approx. 100 tonnes per year.

About DPD

With the shipment of 2 million parcels a day DPD is one of the leading international parcel and express service providers. DPD's network is the most efficient road network in Europe and extends worldwide to the most important economic areas. DPD is operating at over 800 locations, in more than 40 countries, with a workforce of 24,000 people and 18,000 vehicles. Customers can choose services from an extensive product range of national and international parcel and express services that ship to 220 countries. DPD is managed by Arnold Schroven (CEO) and John Acton. France's GeoPost Group, a wholly-owned La Poste subsidiary, holds the majority of DPD shares (83,32 per cent shareholding). Minority shareholders are DPD Systemlogistik GmbH & Co. KG and DPD Zeitfracht GmbH & Co. KG.

About DPD in Germany

DPD is Germany's leading provider of parcel services for business customers. As part of the international DPD network DPD offers a wide spectrum of domestic and international services on the German market. These services range from standard domestic and international shipping to express deliveries and are also aimed at small-scale shippers, who have access to efficient parcel shipping with DPD via 4.000 Parcel-Shops and online shipping. DPD has 75 depots in Germany, where a workforce of 7.500 and 7.000 vehicles are in daily operation on behalf of the customers.

About GeoPost

The GeoPost Group consolidates the Express service subsidiaries of the La Poste Group and is a major player in express services in Europe, as shown by its top ranking road transport network, DPD. GeoPost operates in over 230 countries on behalf of over 300,000 customers worldwide and is n°1 in France and n°2 at European level on the express parcel market with a consolidated turnover figure of 3.093 billion euros in 2009.

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