COMPLETE OVERHAUL: LEITNER ROPEWAYS RESPONSIBLE FOR INNOVATIVE FACELIFT OF DORFBAHN SERFAUS

Prestigious project in top tourism destination in Tyrol consolidates the company's market leadership in the air cushion technology

Still a model example of efficient mobility, reducing individual transport in particularly sensitive, Alpine regions: Dorfbahn Serfaus, popularly known as the "U-Bahn", is actually technically a funicular. LEITNER ropeways is currently working on a full overhaul including a complete technological "facelift" of the ropeway, which has been providing sustainable transport services in the heavily touristed Tyrolean village since 1986.

Revolutionary and unprecedented over 30 years ago, it is still considered a visionary concept with great practicality today. The four stations "Parkplatz", "Kirche", "Zentrum" and "Seilbahn" give passengers access to all important areas of the village on the air cushion funicular along a 1,280-meter route. In 2016, the decision was made to comprehensively modernize the funicular, with LEITNER ropeways providing all technical ropeway services. Among other things, this includes equipping the funicular with the particularly silent and environmentally friendly DirectDrive and the intuitive LeitControl control system. LEITNER ropeways is also responsible for equipping the installation with communication, platform information and video systems in all stations, on platforms and in engineering rooms. The emergency radio system in the tunnel is part of the modern safety infrastructure included in the "LEITNER package" for the Dorfbahn Serfaus.

LATEST AIR CUSHION TECHNOLOGY AND SPECIAL DIRECTDRIVE The prestigious project in Tyrol features multiple technological innovations by LEITNER ropeways that make operation safer, more efficient and sustainable. In addition to the latest generation of the air cushion technology, this also includes the first DirectDrive installed with a standing traction sheave. The choice of the innovative, air cushion-based solution combines high speed and silent transport comfort with record-breaking low emission values. The modernization project will increase the transport capacity from the previous maximum of 2,000 passengers per hour to 3,000 per hour. The vehicle itself is a three-part trainset with internal access to all carriages. LEITNER ropeways also is also installing the platform doors and glazing and access control systems at the stations.

FINALIZATION OF THE "ALL-ROUND PACKAGE" BY 2019 The doors for the platforms in the stations have already been produced and will now be installed by this fall. In addition to this, planning for the deliverables in the second construction phase – electrical systems, the drive system and tensioning devices – are running at full speed and they will be installed in the upcoming year. Finally, delivery of the vehicle and the line equipment, and completion of all construction work are scheduled for 2019. "As our system is an air cushion funicular, a system which is rarely used today, it was not easy at first to find a company that would accept this technological challenge. For us, it is particularly important that the new funicular will continue to run through the heart of the village silently and with little vibration. The flexibility of our partner was another reason we chose LEITNER ropeways. We have to implement the project in 3 construction phases, as most of the construction work must be done in the low season due to the high visitor numbers in the summer and winter seasons. LEITNER has already implemented similar projects in other countries, so we could rely on them to build our new Dorfbahn Serfaus in accordance with all of our technical and functional requirements," explains Stefan Mangott, CEO of Seilbahn Komperdell GmbH.

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