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PRESS RELEASE

Physical Internet: Rethinking Logistics

4th International Physical Internet Conference in Graz from 4 - 6 July 2017

Karlsruhe, Germany, 03/07/2017. Sending goods through open channels as easily as information via the internet – that is the vision of the Physical Internet (PI). It applies the principle of exchange of standardized data packets to material flows in order to make transport logistics more efficient, flexible and environmentally friendly. The 4th International Physical Internet Conference looks at the steps and solutions required to make this vision come true. PTV Group will present its new concepts and projects at this unique event, which takes place at LogistikWerkstatt (LogisticsWorkshop) in Graz from 4 to 6 July 2017.

Putting ideas into practice

Since Dr. Benoit Montreuil, Chair and Professor at Georgia Tech, Coca-Cola Material Handling & Distribution Center, Atlanta, GA, presented his vision of a Physical Internet, it has evolved from a visionary approach to an international research initiative. And it has influenced the concepts of logistics in industry and trade. “Hyperconnected“, “synchromodal“, “collaborative“, “modular“ are the buzzwords that are linked to PI. Standardized modular boxes, the cooperation of all parties involved in storage and transport, collaborative planning and execution of transport, an open concept for the exchange of information and data – these are the basics required to turn PI into reality. And they help optimise the entire supply chain.

In recent years, leading companies have adopted this visionary approach towards a powerful integrated transport system. This trend also becomes visible at the International Physical Internet Conference and the Graz LogisticsWorkshop, attracting high-calibre representatives from research and science as well as industry and trade. The standardization organization GS1 Germany recently introduced special standardized containers for the supply of goods. This type of container was designed and tested as part of the EU project MODULUSHCA – the first project towards the implementation of the PI, which was coordinated by PTV. Standardized cargo carriers, which allow individual items to be combined onto a single shipment, are the basis for an integrated logistics system at European level. A single system for all parties involved helps coordinate central depots and warehouses and implement an open concept. The test results will be presented at the conference.

Clusters 2.0: Get connected!

Marcel Huschebeck, Manager Logistics Research at PTV, is also in charge of the coordination of the new EU project Clusters 2.0, which will be presented and discussed at the conference in Session 12 on 6 July. The workshop focuses on the synchromodal initiative CargoStream which aims at developing a platform for the exchange of data between shippers and transport companies. The platform will combine the shipments so that they can be allocated to transport modes in a synchromodal manner. This demand-oriented approach will also take into account all kinds of restrictions, such as available time slots. CargoStream is an important part of Clusters 2.0 designed to facilitate cooperation between shippers and transport companies at all levels. Various approaches, such as the development of new intermodal corridors or the role of a so-called trustees for cooperative transport management, will be discussed by the experts.

The devil is in the detail

Smart geocoding is the basis for all processes across the transport chain. Precise coordinates are a must for precise transport planning. In his presentation "Smart geocoding for accurate and reliable delivery planning and execution" Dr. Michael Nutto, Solution Director PTV xServer at PTV Group, will go into details about accurate transport planning. Because it’s often the detail that causes the headache. For example, the postal and delivery address might not be identical. If the barcode contains the postal address instead of the delivery address, which refers to another part of the building or an adjacent building, it will be difficult for the driver to deliver the goods. The routing information is no longer correct. This means the driver must ask for the right delivery address, he might even have to park his vehicle somewhere else and will thus waste valuable time.

PTV’s knowledge-based systems can help identify and adjust the precise position and provide the driver with all relevant data in real time, including detailed information, such as a route description to the postroom within the building. Drivers can thus avoid tedious searching and ensure reliable delivery. Dr. Nutto will speak at the Conference Workshop 1.2 Interconnected E-Commerce Logistics on 4 July at 3.05 pm.

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Imagery

The 4th International Physical Internet Conference will take place in Graz from 4 - 6 July. PTV Group will be presenting current projects and its latest software solutions for the Physical Internet. Photo: PTV

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PTV The Mind of Movement.

PTV Group takes a holistic approach that integrates all aspects of traffic, transport and logistics to create and promote sustainable mobility. Recognised as global market leader, PTV develops intelligent software solutions for transport logistics, traffic planning and traffic management. Thus cities, companies and people save time and money, enhance road safety and minimise the impact on the environment. Based on its unique expertise in every facet of mobility, PTV ensures that people and goods arrive at their destinations safe and sound, and on time.

More than 2,500 cities deploy PTV products. Trips and routes for over one million vehicles are planned with our software. The European transport model, which encompasses all passenger transport and freight movements in Europe, is developed using PTV software. We currently have more than 700 colleagues worldwide committed to driving the high performance of our products. The company's headquarters located in the heart of the Karlsruhe technology region houses its centre of development and innovation. From here, PTV plans and optimises everything that moves people and goods worldwide – it's the idea which has accompanied the Group since its foundation in 1979.

The German company PTV Planung Transport Verkehr AG is a member of PTV Group. www.ptvgroup.com.