



RCG Adds Third Hybrid Locomotive - Advancing Sustainable Rail Freight in Germany

Posted on 03.Jul 2025

picture: ÖBB/RCG

Vienna, July 2025 – The Rail Cargo Group (RCG), the freight division of ÖBB, is accelerating its efforts toward more sustainable rail freight by introducing a **third Vectron Dual Mode locomotive** to its operations in Germany.

This move is part of a broader commitment to climate goals and infrastructure flexibility, particularly on **partially electrified routes** where conventional locomotives often face operational bottlenecks.

“With hybrid technology, we’re closing the gap between electric and diesel rail segments. It’s an essential step for reliable and climate-conscious logistics,” says Clemens Först, CEO of ÖBB Rail Cargo Group.

Why Dual Mode Matters

The Siemens-built **Vectron Dual Mode locomotive** enables seamless transitions between electric and non-electrified track sections, without the need to switch engines. This allows:

- **Fewer locomotive changes** during journeys
- **Reduced downtime and shunting costs**
- **Lower overall emissions**
- **Greater route flexibility** – including sidings, terminals, and rural lines without electrification

A Scalable Bridge Technology

RCG sees hybrid locomotives as a **pragmatic, scalable solution** to meet today's infrastructure reality, without waiting years for full rail electrification.

By deploying this technology on key German corridors, RCG is reinforcing its role as a front-runner in climate-aligned logistics – while ensuring high operational performance across its international network.

Learn more:

 [Original press release by ÖBB Rail Cargo Group](#)