Electric roads: Heavy road freight is becoming electrified in 2015

Hall 4, Level +1
Thursday, May 28, 2015, 13:30 - 15:00

Organised by Siemens AG

Road freight today is facing serious challenges. Forecasts point to growing demand for transport, while at the same time fuel costs and ambitious goals to reduce CO2-emissions and improve air quality are of increasing concern. Even after implementing current policy proposals, in 2050 it is likely that there will still be a significant road freight sector and a significant gap in the emission reduction goals. It is therefore necessary to consider previously unexplored options.

One such option is to electrify road freight. We are increasingly seeing trains and cars powered by electricity, which can be both CO2 neutral and much more energy efficient than fossil fuels. However, on-board storage, e.g. a battery, is more suitable for light vehicles that travel short regular distances. For trucks weighing up to 40 tons and travelling 500-1000 km per day, this will not be a practical option except for very short sections of their daily mileage.

If electricity cannot be stored on board, it would need to be provided while the vehicle is running. This applies the same principle as trains, which have long benefited from external power supply. In these cases the volume of traffic and possible savings determine where such a solution is feasible.

This idea is now being considered for road freight with electrified trucks. The trucks would be hybrid so that they can maintain today’s flexibility and also drive on non-electrified roads. The technology is maturing quickly and demonstration projects for public roads in California and Sweden will start in 2015.

This Side Event will provide information about these demonstrations, and present and discuss possible future use cases.

More on Siemens eHighway:
More on Scania’s electric road trucks: http://newsroom.scania.com/en-group/2014/03/13/scania-tests-next-generation-electric-vehicles/

Speakers:

- Patrik Akerman, Business Developer eHighway, Siemens AG, Germany
- Anders Berndtsson, Chief Strategist, Strategic Development, Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket), Sweden
- William Todts, Programme Manager - Transport, Transport & Environment
- Nils-Gunnar Vågstedt, Head of hybrid system development, Scania AB, Sweden

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