



— *Environmentally friendly logistics: parts for the Grandland X.*

Travelling across Germany by rail – electric, environmentally friendly and just in time. This is the solution that car manufacturer Opel chose for portions of its supplier transport.

The new route is used to transport vehicle components for Opel, a subsidiary of the French Groupe PSA, and its new Grandland X SUV, which is

available as a plug-in hybrid. The parts are supplied by around a dozen suppliers in France, mostly based in the Alsace region. “We use lorries to pick up deliveries from the suppliers”, says Andreas Weiss, a Key Account Manager. DB Cargo Logistics serves as the lead logistics provider (LLP) in this new cross-border service. Together with its partner Ewals Cargo Care, the company organises and carries out both the rail transport and the first and last-mile journeys, where lorries are used.

Once loaded, the lorries drive to the intermodal terminal at Ottmarsheim on the border between France and Germany, where the cranable mega-trailers are transferred to rail. The trailers then travel overnight to the Opel plant in Eisenach in central Germany, a journey of almost 600 km. The track ends just outside the factory doors. DB Cargo Logistics operates a dispatching tower in Kelsterbach near Frankfurt which is responsible for managing collection, delivery, tracking and tracing along the entire transport chain.

The contract is for five block trains per week. In addition to traditional full container loads, DB Cargo also performs “milk runs”. “This is where we pick up LTLs from various suppliers one after another”, explains Andrey Ludwigs, Senior Project Manager at

Flexible operation for Opel

DB Cargo Logistics manages rail-based supplier transport from Alsace to Eisenach.

DB Cargo Logistics. “Although this is a major challenge, our colleagues at the dispatching tower organise everything with our partner Ewals Cargo Care so it runs smoothly.” If deliveries need to be transported outside the specified train running times, DB Cargo Logistics can also switch to the road for the long-distance section of the journey at short notice. “This allows us to respond very quickly to fluctuating volumes, giving the customer the greatest flexibility and reliability for their production.”

Environmentally friendly

The key factors in the tender were cost effectiveness, reliability and flexibility of the transports, as well as their eco-friendliness. Deutsche Bahn delivered convincing solutions for all of these elements in its offer. Rail transports on this long-distance route generates as much as 80% less CO₂ than the equivalent road transports. This translates to a total savings of some 5,200 tonnes of CO₂ per year. The rail transports also take 300 lorries off the road every week. ●



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Customer: Opel

Transport: Supplier transport for the Opel plant in Eisenach

Routes: Ottmarsheim–Eisenach

Services:

- Road-based first and last-mile transport by lorry
- DB Cargo Logistics acts as LLP
- Five direct trains in each direction per week
- Cranable mega-trailers

Reduction in CO₂ emissions compared to road transport: 5,200 tonnes per year.