

Technical Visit, 31. August 2011

1. Visit to the new SBB “diameter” line (DML) under construction in Zurich-Oerlikon
2. Visit to the new SBB control center (BZ) being installed at the Zurich Airport

This visit on 31 August 2011 was organized by courtesy of André Rüegg and Heinz Walser, both of SBB, and was the first meeting of the former ERFA group, now the Swiss Section of IRSE. After an introduction by Markus Montigel regarding organizational matters, the group, consisting of 26 participants was informed by Peter Thommen, SBB, about the newly installed electronic interlocking Simis-W (Estw), replacing the Do 67. Oerlikon station is now connected, 32 other stations to follow. Currently 1000 trains a day, with 600 to stop here, final capacity after end of all construction and transfer of the control center to the airport location will be 1300 trains a day. The tracks in Oerlikon will be displaced in 12 stages to accommodate the new “diameter” line from Zurich Main Station to a total of eight tracks while the entire traffic keeps running as scheduled.

Moritz Weber, SBB, explained the various phases of construction, including specialties like temporary level crossings for heavy machinery. In July 2011 all wayside signals were replaced by the new type N and equipped with Euro-ZUB balises. This was a thoroughly planned overnight job, with all trains unimpaired in their schedule the next day. Beat Bürgin, SBB, responsible for the implementation of this large construction project, presented its necessity to accommodate the rise in traffic in the coming years. A very instructive tour through the construction site with trains running by at short intervals revealed the complexity of this project.

The group then moved from Oerlikon to the Zurich airport.

In the afternoon, after a lunch at the self service airport restaurant, Marc Reber, SBB, presented the plans of SBB to concentrate today’s many control centers, supervisory and customer information activities into four combined centers in Lausanne, Olten, Pollegio and Zurich Airport, handling all of SBB’s train traffic. An additional center without operational control will be established in Bern to coordinate activities in case of large area disturbances. Additional work places are provided for training of personnel and for redundancy in case of failure of any regular workstation.

A tour guided by Daniel Tschumi and Bernhard Sandmayr, both SBB, through two floors filled with computer work stations (operational and supervisory) showed most of the hardware installed, with a few stations already in operation. Also provided are various recreation and lunch rooms for the employees’ benefit.

This visit was highly informative for our group. We were informed by very competent SBB personnel. We, therefore, express our thanks for their time spent and wish them continued success with the realization of the Oerlikon project and the nationwide control centers project.

Hans E. Weidmann, FIRSE / Heinz Walser MIRSE

2. September, 2011

SWISS SECTION - Programm of Meetings - Preview

- 25. Nov 2011 Visit of Institute for Transport Planning and Systems (IVT) Zürich
- 07. March 2012 First Annual General Meeting
(together with technical Event in advance)