

PRESS RELEASE



HEADLINE

Complex like never before: The control system from Berghof Process Management for the largest ICE maintenance centre in Europe

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TEASER

After almost two years of construction time, Deutsche Bahn recently opened Europe's largest and most modern maintenance centre in Cologne's Nippes quarter. Deutsche Bahn now services up to 17 high-speed trains, including the new ICE 4, here on a daily basis. The central control system forms the heart and nerve centre of this impressive facility. Berghof Process Management, the Railway Control Management specialist within the Berghof Group, won the tender with its Management Computer called BFR, which is based on the IBIS control system developed by Berghof. A real milestone for the experienced Berghof experts: Never before have they installed and networked so many sensors, backup systems and interfaces as in this project.

TEXT

Even the spatial dimensions of the new facility far and away surpass all previous projects realised by Berghof Process Management: It extends to a length of more than five kilometres, the main hall covering an area of 450 x 50 metres. Added to this are dispatching tracks and many other outdoor facilities.

The Management Computer called BFR, which is based on Berghof's IBIS system, makes things much easier for the dispatchers of Deutsche Bahn. This is because the modular maintenance, info and safety system – known by its German acronym IBIS – optimises maintenance and service work on trains

by utilising all available technology, track and personnel resources as ideally as possible. At the same time, the system precisely complies with all safety regulations of the Federal Railway Authority (EBA). Decentralised distributed systems can therefore be monitored centrally via one control system without extensive labour.

By coupling with the interlocking technology systems and info systems of Deutsche Bahn, the team in Cologne only needs to work with a single control system thanks to the BFR from Berghof – both in the hall areas and on the entire facility grounds as well as on the upstream rail network of DB Netz AG. This gives schedulers a clear overview of when what train is arriving and, above all, departing again.

Further challenge: Besides greater automation of the workflows, the control system is also designed to ensure the highest possible level of occupational safety on all tracks. The system is therefore programmed so that all instances have to agree before a train can start moving – from the dispatcher and signalman through to the foreman. Employees log in by transponder for a definite activity via operating data logging terminals located at the hall tracks. The track is then automatically barred for any train movement. Besides primary operating elements, Berghof also installed an additional fall-back level so as to maintain emergency operation even in the event that the main control fails completely.

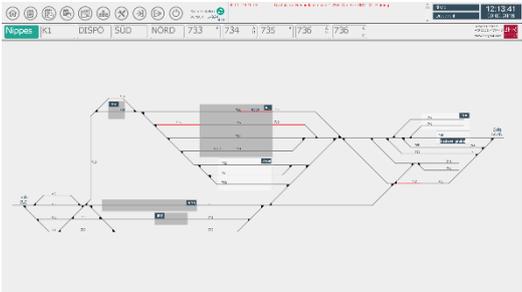
The spatial dimensions and these special requirements meant the Berghof experts had to network huge numbers of interfaces and data with each other. In total, they routed over 60 kilometres of cables in the new maintenance centre Cologne Nippes, having installed eight info boards as well as eight warning systems with 24 flashing lights and eight horns for the traffic light and signal systems. To determine the train position precisely to ten metres, over 300 sensors are also utilised on the tracks.

Jürgen Schütze, Head of Test and System Technology at Berghof Process Management, explains the way the control system functions: „A train previously dispatched is logged and the BFR checks whether everything is ready for safe arrival at the corresponding track. The arrival is then automated: If a sensor registers a train movement, the system warns the employees in the hall via warning lights and horns. The gate opens, a train

enters, the gate closes, and the system automatically switches the warning signals off again after the train has come to a rest.“

Managed by Jürgen Schütze, the implementation of the diverse, individual hardware and software solutions at Berghof ran perfectly according to plan – thanks to the company having utilised state-of-the-art fieldbus systems for capturing the sensors and coupling the interface partners.

PHOTOS

<p>Impressive project: After almost two years of construction time, Deutsche Bahn recently opened Europe’s largest and most modern maintenance centre in Cologne’s Nippes quarter.</p>	
<p>Deutsche Bahn now services up to 17 high-speed trains, including the new ICE 4, here on a daily basis.</p>	
<p>With BFR from Berghof, decentralised distributed systems can therefore be monitored centrally via one control system without extensive labour: The control system provides an overview of the entire facility.</p>	

<p>Always in sight: Detailed view of a track in the control system – the so-called track magnifier.</p>	
<p>Pretty impressive: Grand opening of the largest rail maintenance centre in Europe in the video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXdmQm8mRTU.</p>	

About Berghof Process Management:

Berghof Process Management, the Railway Control Management specialist in the Berghof Group, is one of the world's leading providers of rail control systems. Founded in 1990, the company operates globally from its Mühlhausen site in Thüringen. The solutions from Berghof Process Management ensure greater dynamism and transparency in logistics, material flow and safety and hence the greatest possible value added.

More information at www.berghof-processmanagement.com

Berghof in brief:

As a family-run technology company focussing on long-term goals, the Berghof Group, which is based in Enigen unter Achalm (Reutlingen), is a partner for the development and production of innovative services. Our aim is to improve the competitiveness of our customers and partners in their markets. As a versatile team of around 300 experts and specialists in eight product areas, we are dedicated to this task with enthusiasm and passion. Our values are **fairness, versatility** and **high-quality** and these form the basis for an intense partnership built on trust.

More information can be found at www.berghof.com