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*Transport Consultants*  
Hans-Paul Kienzler

**UIC**  
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES CHEMINS DE FER  
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INTERNATIONAL UNION OF RAILWAYS

# Developing Infrastructure and Operating Models for Intermodal Shift (DIOMIS)



HOW CAN CAPACITY UTILISATION BE OPTIMISED  
IN INTERNATIONAL COMBINED TRANSPORT  
TRAINS?





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# Basic idea and approach



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Chart 2



# Assumption in the “UIC - capacity study”: 80% use of available train length in 2015

## Objective and approach

- Providing examples of methods and features (good practices), which enable an improved use of train capacity
- Interviews of intermodal operators that are employing specific capacity management features
  - Factors, which determine the actual use of capacity beyond the realm of operators' influence, and measures to cope with suboptimal use of capacity
  - Factors within the realm of operators' influence and measures to cope with suboptimal use of capacity
- Capacity management depends on the question “who bears the risk” → segmentation of the markets



# Interview partners from intermodal operators



	Company	Today's speakers
<b>Shipper market</b>		
	Ambrogio	Livio Ambrogio
	Hangartner	
	Crossrail	
<b>Maritime market</b>		
	IFB	Wilfried Moons
	Italcontainer	Javier Casanas
	Transfracht	
	Rail Link	
<b>Forwarder market with line production system</b>		
	HUPAC	
	Novatrans	
<b>Forwarder market with network production system</b>		
	Kombiverkehr	Konstantinos Papadopoulos



## Segmentation

- Shipper market
  - More than 50 % of the loading are regular shipments of the key clients.
  - Free space on the train will be filled with own empty load units.
  - Shipments exceeding the train capacity are rejected.
- Maritime market –carrier haulage-
  - High volumes concentrated on a few clients
  - In many cases the capacity risk is bared by the shipping company purchasing a complete train at the operator.
  - Free capacity on the train is used for a reallocation of empty containers.



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Chart 5

## Segmentation

- Forwarder market -line production system- and maritime market – merchant haulage-
  - Concentration on axis with high volumes and –sometimes- standardized products.
  - Adapting the offer on the demand
- Forwarder market –network production system-
  - Highly complex capacity management systems, since the capacity has to be optimized not only on a train level but also on a service (first origin-final destination) level that may comprise different trains



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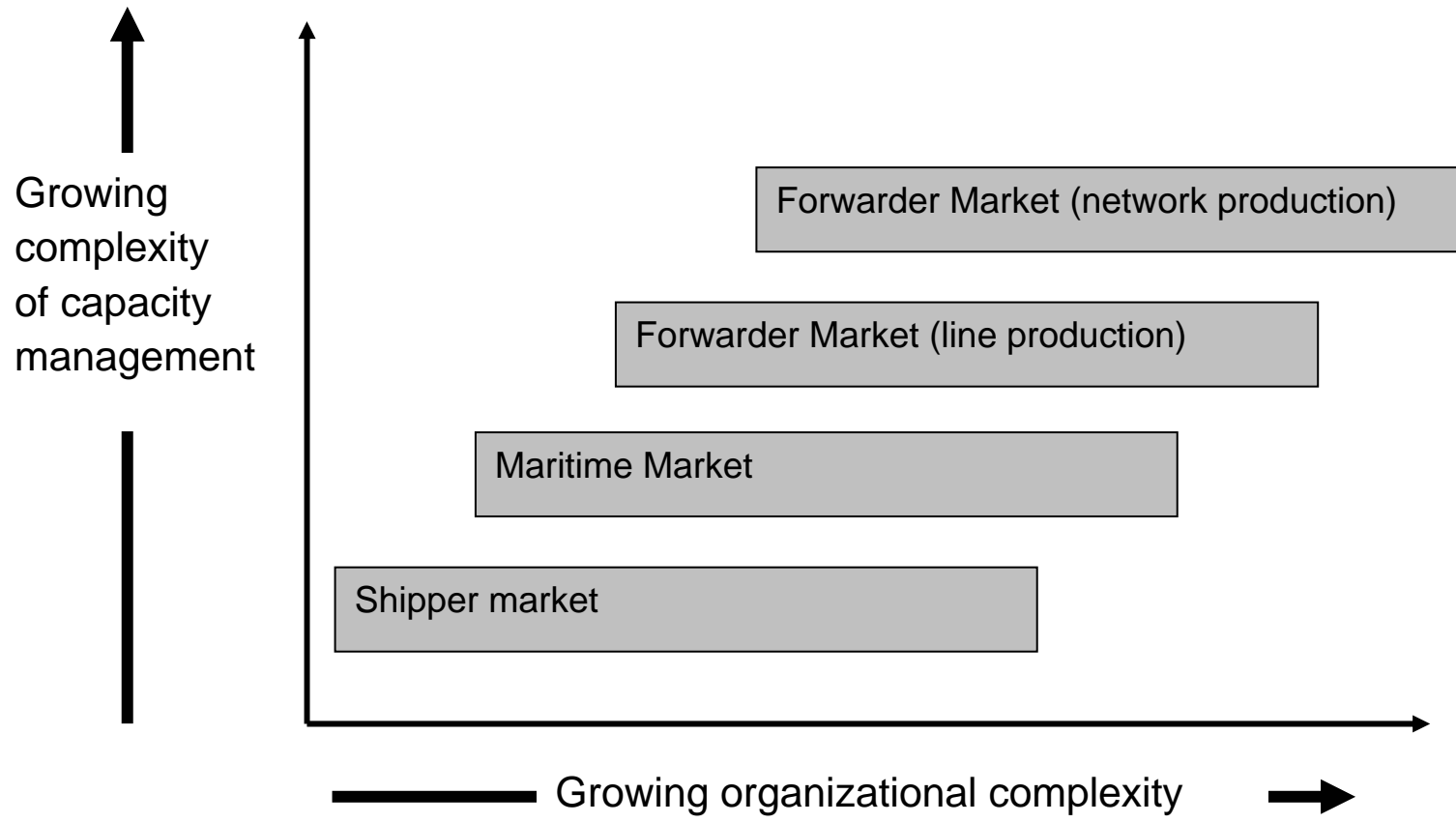
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Chart 6

# Improving the use of available train length



## Improving the use of available train length

**During talks with intermodal operators, we detected a multitude of measures and features to improve the use of available train length.**

- Booking procedures, service types
  - Operational procedures
  - Sharing of risk
  - Hardware
  - Fully developed CMS
- 
- **Good practices in the view of applicability?**
  - **Good practices in the view of transferability ?**
  - **Impact of the practices on the capacity of the network?**



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Chart 8



## Good practices detected

Chapter	Features	Conditions	Market segment currently affected
	<b>Features concerning booking procedures and types of services</b>		
3.2.1	Last minute prices	No particular conditions required	All segments
3.2.2	Standby bookings	Sufficient volume of consignments with low priority Suboptimal use of capacity on particular trains	All segments
3.2.3	Price differentiation for consignments with varying priorities	Efficiency in the Terminal operation	All segments
3.2.4	Price differentiation in the case of an extended service	Lacking capacity on existing services Overflows not sufficient for a extension of existing services	Forwarder market with line production system
3.2.5	Penalties for late cancellations (no show)	No particular conditions required	All segments
3.2.6	Time buffers of one day on long distances	Daily services with day A - day B quality Customers acceptance of day A - day C quality	Forwarder market with line production system
	<b>Features concerning operational procedures</b>		
3.3.1	Gateway system	Market situation has to allow for additional handling costs	Maritime market and forwarder market
3.3.2	Hub system	Sufficiently large terminal or a shunting yard in a suitable position	Maritime market and shipper market
3.3.3	Multiple daily departures	High volume axis	Forwarder and maritime market
3.3.4	Short-notice booking or cancellation of trains	Regulations with railway undertakings	All segments
3.3.5	A combination of heavy and voluminous transports and a combination of conventional freight wagons and intermodal wagons	Terminals for intermodal traffic and sidings for conventional traffic must be located close to each other	At the moment this is only done occasionally
3.3.6	Filling up of trains from maritime transports with continental transports and v.v.	Suitable access to the terminals for both types of units	All segments
3.3.7	Direction-dependent combination of maritime and continental transports	Sufficient volumes of continental and maritime shipments in opposite directions Terminals for maritime traffic and sidings for conventional traffic must be located close to each other	All segments
3.3.8	Low price trains	Sufficiently high volume of standard units	Maritime market
3.3.9	Flexibility in pre-carriage	Sufficient capacities for the pre-carriage	All segments
3.3.10	Precise preplanning and monitoring of the entire transport chain of maritime consignments	Sufficient planning tools	Maritime market
	<b>Features concerning risk sharing</b>		
3.4.1	Sale of slots	Customers willing to share the capacity utilization risk	All segments
3.4.2	Sharing of capacity utilization risk between different operators	Operators willing to share the capacity utilization risk	Maritime segment
	<b>Features concerning the hardware</b>		
3.5.1	Overload of terminals	Terminals working at the capacity limit Terminals far from residential areas	All segments
3.5.2	Flexible adaptation of the wagon fleet to types of shipments	Availability of wagons, engines for shunting and engine drivers, suitable infrastructure for shunting	All segments
	<b>Fully developed capacity management system</b>		
3.6	Fully developed capacity management system	Availability of an EDP supported CMS tool	Forwarder market with network production system



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Chart 9

## Transfer of risk to the railway



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**Sometimes an efficient capacity management was achieved by transferring the risk (costs) to the railway companies.**

### Approach

- Interviews of railway undertakings
- “Who bears the costs of a flexible adjustment of train capacities?”

Railway undertakings	Interview partner
<b>B-cargo</b>	
	Johan de Groot
	Helga Colpaert
<b>Rail Cargo Austria</b>	
	Erich Rohrhofer
	Richard Fischer
<b>SBB Cargo</b>	
	Ralf-Charly Schultze
<b>Stinnes Intermodal</b>	
	Sylke Hußmann



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Chart 10

## Improving the use of available train length

- Methods to offer the operators more flexibility
  - Periodical actualization of long term transport programmes
  - Volume commitments
  - Surcharge of operators for booking services at short notice.
  - Graded charges for train cancellation
  
- The interviews revealed that the costs of a cancellation are –in theory- mainly passed on to the operators. However, a part of these costs also remain with the railway companies or railway infrastructure companies.



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Chart 11

# Examples



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Chart 12

## Examples

### ■ Booking procedures, service types

- Last minute prices
- Stand by bookings
- Price differentiation for consignments with varying priorities
- Price differentiation in the case of an extended service
- Penalties for late cancellations (no shows)
- Time buffers of one day on long distances



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Chart 13

## Example: Price differentiation in the case of an extended service



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- Basic idea:
  - Inhabitant risk of service extensions ( 2 → 3 departures) is the cannibalization of the existing services
- System
  - Novatrans offers additional departure with lower quality at a lower price (“price and service differentiation”) to lower costs
- Effect
  - Clients depending on shorter transit time stay with the original service
  - Exceeding load units will be shipped with the “low price service”
  - New clients with less priority consignments are attracted by the lower price
- Conditions
  - Lacking capacity on the existing service
  - Not enough volume to create an additional service from the very start
  - Customers with different priority of consignments



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Chart 14

## Example



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- Operational procedures
  - Gateway transports
  - Hub system
  - Multiple daily departures
  - Short-notice booking or cancellation of trains
  - "Combination of heavy and voluminous transports ...
  - ...or combination of conventional freight wagons and intermodal wagons
  - Filling up of trains from maritime transports with continental transports
  - Direction-dependent combination of maritime and continental transports
  - Low price trains
  - Greater flexibility in pre-carriage

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Chart 15

## Example: Direction-dependent combination of maritime and continental transports

- Basic idea:
  - Balance imbalanced flows by direction-dependent combination of maritime and continental transports in the case of Rail Link services to/from Marseille
- System
  - Northbound services from Marseille are loaded with continental transports of chemical products, southbound services with maritime containers. Free capacity on the train is used to reallocate empty units
- Effect
  - More than 90 % use of capacity both ways, even though flows are completely imbalanced
- Conditions
  - High volumes of maritime and continental shipments in opposite directions
  - Origins and destinations of continental and maritime shipments close together
  - Stacking areas for empty containers close to the points of loading and unloading



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Chart 16



## Example

- Sharing of risk
  - Sale of slots
  - Sharing of capacity utilization risk between different operators
- Hardware
  - Availability of capacities in the terminals
  - Flexible adaptation of the wagon fleet to types of consignments
- Fully developed CMS
  - Computer-aided capacity management system



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Chart 17

## Example: Availability of capacity in the terminals



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- Basic idea
  - Capacity shortages in terminals often lead to suboptimal use of the available train length
- System
  - HUPAC offers its clients a bonus-malus system for picking up load units in due time or in off peak hours
- Effect
  - Free capacity in the terminals reduce the necessity of additional lifts to relocate units
  - Free capacity in the terminals reduce the risk that trains cannot be completely loaded in due time
- Conditions
  - The system is favorable for terminals working at the capacity limit
  - The system requires extended opening hours of the terminal
  - The system requires the possibility of pick up during the night



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Chart 18



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# Conclusions

→ This afternoon



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Chart 19

# Examples



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**Good practice to avoid „canibalization“ effects**

**Good practice to offer high frequency on O/D with lower volumes**

A	low	Requires specific conditions
C	high	If conditions are fulfilled the feature can be

**Good practice to use the available capacity to nearly 100% in the case of imbalanced flows per market**

A	medium	Requires specific conditions
T	low	Only in a few cases transferable

C	high	Optimal use of capacity on the network
---	------	--

2 Features					
<b>Features concerning booking procedures and of services</b>					
Last minute prices	No				
Standby bookings	Suff				
Price differentiation for consignments with varying priorities	Sub				
Price differentiation in the case of an extended service	Effic				
<b>Features concerning operational procedures</b>					
Gateway system	Lac				
Hub system	Overflows not suf services				
Multiple daily departures	No particular con				
Short-notice booking or cancellation of trains	Daily services wit				
A combination of heavy and voluminous transports and a combination of conventional freight wagons and intermodal wagons	Customers accep				
Filling up of trains from maritime transports with continental transports and v.v.	Market situation h handling costs				
Direction-dependent combination of maritime and continental transports	Sufficiently large suitable position				
Low price trains	High volume axis				
Flexibility in pre-carriage	Regulations with railway undertakings	market			
Precise preplanning and monitoring of the entire transport chain of maritime consignments	Terminals for intermodal traffic and sidings for conventional traffic must be located close to each other	All segments	3	3	3
	Suitable access to the terminals for both types of units	At the moment this is only done occasionally	2	2	3
	Sufficient volumes of continental and maritime shipments in opposite directions	All segments	3	2	3
	Terminals for maritime traffic and sidings for conventional traffic must be located close to each other	All segments	2	1	3
	Sufficiently high volume of standard units	Maritime market	2	2	3
	Sufficient capacities for the pre-carriage	All segments	1	3	1
	Sufficient planning tools	Maritime market	1	2	2



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Chart 20

# Examples

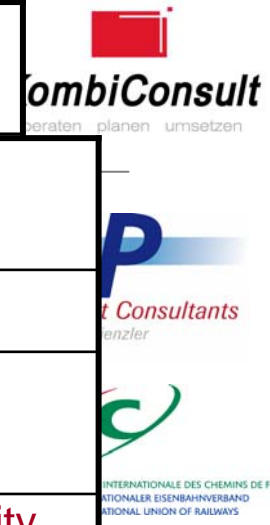
**Good practice to avoid suboptimal use of trains due to time problems in the terminals**

**A** **Good practice to optimise the use of capacity on a network production system**

<b>T</b>	<b>A</b>	medium	Requires specific conditions
<b>C</b>	<b>T</b>	medium	Requires important investments

<b>C</b>	<b>C</b>	high	System allows for an optimal use of capacity
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2 Features						
<b>Features concerning risk sharing</b>						
Sale of slots	Cust risk					
Sharing of capacity utilization risk between different operators	Ope risk					
<b>Features concerning the hardware</b>						
Overload of terminals	Terminals working at the capacity limit	All segments	3	3	1	
	Terminals far from residential areas					
Flexible adaptation of the wagon fleet to types of shipments	Availability of wagons, engines for shunting and engine drivers, suitable infrastructure for shunting	All segments	1	3	2	
<b>Fully developed capacity management system</b>						
Fully developed capacity management system	Availability of an EDP supported CMS tool	Forwarder market with network production system	2	2	3	



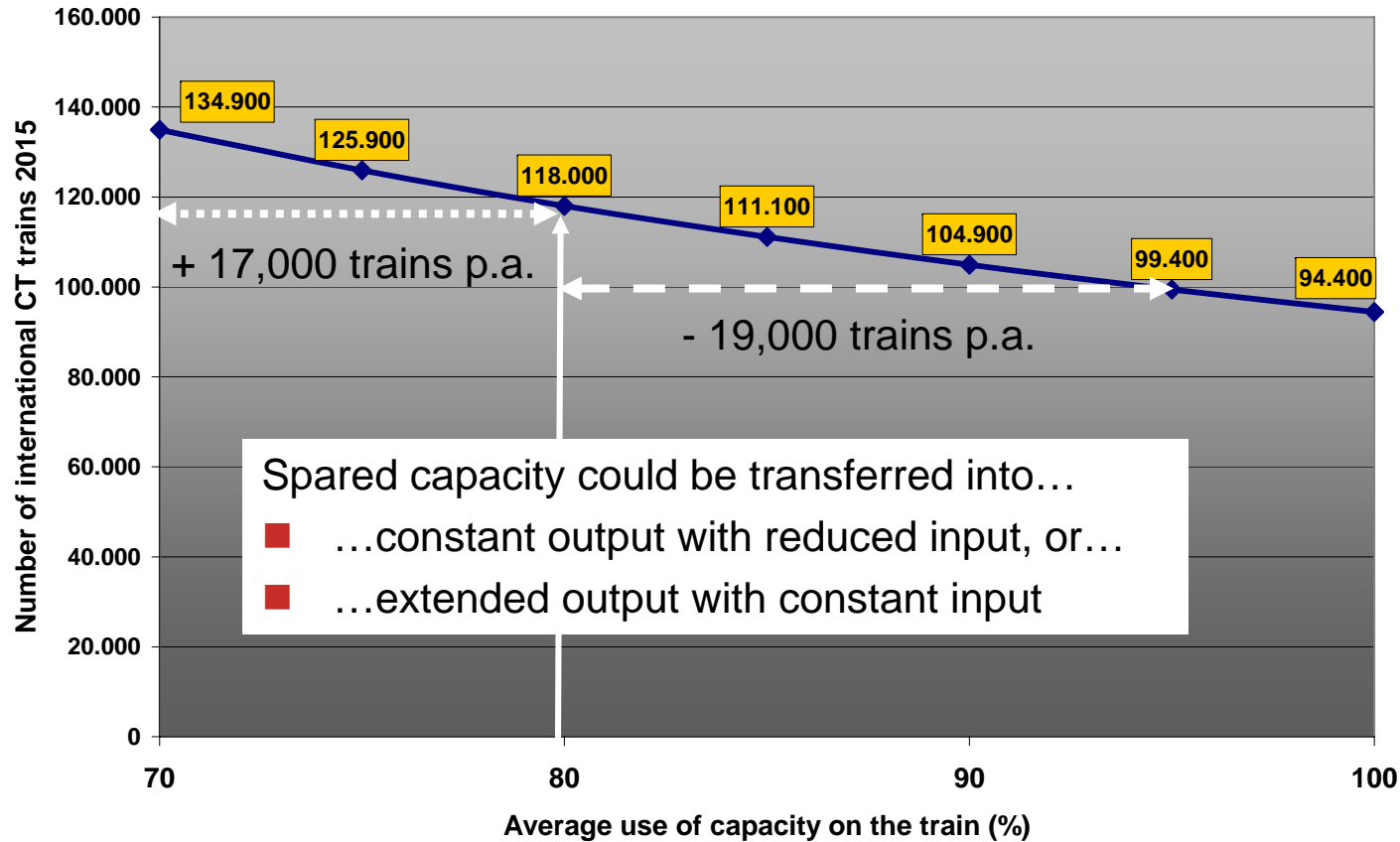
# Impact on railway network



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Chart 22

# Thank you for your attention



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Chart 23