



Local added value: HÜBNER Group cooperates with Škoda Group

Gangway systems and ramps for new Kassel trams

Kassel (18 February 2025). For Kassel, from Kassel: The HÜBNER Group, global system provider for the mobility industry, is supplying gangway systems and other components for 22 new trams that will be in service in Kassel from 2027. The manufacturer of the largest vehicle investment in the history of the Kasseler Verkehrs-Gesellschaft (KVG) to date is the Škoda Group.

Impulse for more accessibility

After KVG awarded the major contract in July 2023, it is now clear that the HÜBNER Group will supply a total of 44 gangway systems to the Škoda Group for this purpose, consisting of outer corrugated bellows, inner bellows and turntable. In addition, there are 44 upper and 44 lower articulation systems.

An important aspect of the project is the promotion of accessibility, because not all KVG trams are currently equipped with same-level entrance. In order to ensure that barrier-free access is also provided for people with limited mobility, HÜBNER is manufacturing 88 folding ramps for the new Kassel trams.

Škoda Group and HÜBNER expand cooperation

With the current order, the Škoda Group and HÜBNER are further expanding their cooperation. **Jan Christoph Harder, President Region West of Škoda Group**, explains: *“The extensive cooperation on the Kassel tram project illustrates our common vision. As the Škoda Group, our goal is to improve the efficiency and quality of public transport together with global partners and with HÜBNER there is big advantage that the partner is also local.”*

Better mobility from Kassel, for Kassel

KVG's investment in the new and high-performance trams will noticeably upgrade Kassel's public transport system and thus contribute to the mobility turnaround in the region. At the same time, it is an economic impulse for the region of Northern Hesse.

“As a group of companies, we have a global presence, but our headquarters with the important areas of development, design and production are located in Kassel,” says **Managing Director Kai Mentel, who is responsible for the Mobility Rail business division of the HÜBNER Group**. *“We identify with the region to a great extent. That's why it's a matter close to our hearts that our components and systems also benefit local public transport.”*



Added value for the region

The components and systems from HÜBNER in the new trams continue the long-standing partnership with KVG. *“We are very pleased that the largest investment order in the history of KVG is contributing to local value creation,”* explains **Carsten Harkner, Chairman of the Board of Kasseler Verkehrs-Gesellschaft AG (KVG)**. *“With the new tram fleet, we are offering our passengers efficient and attractive local light rail transport that will secure and increase the quality of life in Kassel in the long term.”*

Tram articulation FX1000pro – developed in Kassel

A core component in the gangway systems for the new Kassel trams is the FX1000pro lower articulation, which HÜBNER has further developed and manufactures in a recently rebuilt production section at the Kassel-Waldau plant. It is now characterized by low lifecycle costs with a service life twice as long as before.

“For us as employees at the Kassel site, it is a special pleasure to be involved in the modernization of KVG’s tram with our work and our products,” says **Daniel Stück, responsible account manager gangway systems in sales at HÜBNER**. *“It is precisely through our many years of experience, especially in the field of gangway systems, that we are able to deliver innovative solutions that meet the requirements of efficient and comfortable mobility,”* added **Heiko Fuhrmann, Project Manager Gangway Systems at HÜBNER**.

Škoda to bring trams on the rails in 2026

The upper articulation systems also come from the HÜBNER Group. The innovative articulations will be supplied directly to the Škoda Group by the affiliated company HEMSCHEIDT Engineering. They have an integrated spring element that helps to reduce weight as well as optimize the spring characteristics.

The HÜBNER Group will start delivering the components and systems to the Škoda Group in mid-2025. The first new trams are then to be transported from the Škoda plant in Pilsen, Czech Republic, to Kassel in mid-2026. After approval and approval, the first trams are expected to be able to be used in KVG’s regular services in Kassel as well as on the routes to Baunatal, Vellmar and through the Losse Valley from 2027.

HÜBNER Group

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With its business divisions **Mobility Rail, Mobility Road, Material Solutions** and **Photonics**, the HÜBNER Group is a global system supplier for the mobility sector, for manufacturing, and for life sciences and research applications. HÜBNER is the worldwide leader in gangway systems for rail vehicles and buses as well as a supplier of chassis technology, cockpit display solutions and door sealing and safety profiles. The company is also an internationally recognized supplier of sophisticated solutions involving elastomers, insulation and composite materials. HÜBNER’s



business unit for laser technology is developing successfully, featuring applications for cancer diagnostics, holography and spectroscopy, for example. In 2024, the HÜBNER Group generated sales of approximately €476 million, with approximately 3,500 employees worldwide. In addition to its headquarters in Kassel, Germany, HÜBNER is present with approximately 30 locations around the world.

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