

EUROPEAN RAIL CONGRESS PROVED VERY SUCCESSFUL FOR HEATPOINT

On the past 12th and 13th of November, the **European Rail Congress** took place in the Westminster Park Plaza in the heart of London.

A major part of the conference is the annual award ceremony. Heatpoint received the European Rail Award for '**Most Innovative Rail Project Of The Year**' with great pleasure.



The award applies to projects equipped with ISOBLOCK switch insulation, a product developed by Heatpoint that is already being used in several countries. ISOBLOCK enables rails to retain sufficient heat to melt snow and ice with an average energy saving of 50% being achievable. By utilizing the synthetic insulation, the available heat used for point heating can be consumed in a very efficient manner.

All happened under the monitoring eye and judgement of, among others, the vice-president and European Commissioner for Transport of the European Commission, Siim Kallas. The various other members of the jury were delegates of the Transport & Tourism Committee of the European Parliament, assisted by a technical panel with representatives of Europe's main institutions (European Rail Infrastructure Managers, The European Passengers' Federation, European Railway Agency, European Rail Freight Association and The International Association of Public Transport).



This particular success is in line with Rail-Tech Europe 2013 in Amersfoort earlier this year, where another Innovation Award concerning ISOBLOCK was retrieved. The product did not pass unnoticed, which is in accordance with the European Rail Congress of the past month.

Prorail will make use of ISOBLOCK by equipping more than 100 switches with the material this year. It will also be implemented on Amsterdam's

North/South metro line. The RET metro network and the BRU tramway Utrecht-Nieuwegein-IJsselstein will run (follow-up) tests during the upcoming winter, as well as rail companies in countries with severe winter circumstances such as Norway, Sweden and Lithuania. The German Railways are currently considering to implement switch insulation on a large scale. Given the current developments concerning ISOBLOCK, we expect a promising future for this product.