

DHL air freight hub adds ten Allison-equipped MULAG Comet 6 tractors

DHL Hub Leipzig, the largest container handling hub in Europe has expanded its towing tractor fleet with 10 MULAG Comet 6 towing tractors with Allison 1000 Series fully-automatic transmissions.

SCHKEUDITZ, Germany – To cope with the constantly growing cargo volume, ten new MULAG Comet 6 towing tractors have been added to the tractor fleet operating at the DHL Hub Leipzig in Schkeuditz, Saxony, near Leipzig. The fleet currently operates 128 MULAG towing tractors with 4-cylinder Deutz diesel engines (64 kW / 87 hp) and Allison 1000 Series fully-automatic transmissions for container handling. The first 80 vehicles were delivered in 2007, when the test operation at DHL Hub Leipzig began.

“We always reorder the same vehicle models to maintain fleet purity. That way, the drivers don’t have to be retrained,” explained Jens Freund, Duty Manager of Ground Support Equipment at DHL Hub Leipzig.

The Allison-equipped Comet 6 towing tractors operate mainly between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., while more than 55 freight planes land and take-off at DHL Hub Leipzig; some vehicles are also needed during the day. Business mail, computers, smartphones, and pharmaceuticals are delivered in defined flight schedules. Containers are pulled out and loaded onto MULAG towing tractors. The vehicles carry the freight to the 413 meter-long distribution center, called “the warehouse.” There a 6.5 kilometer-long fully-automatic sorting ally is ready and waiting. Altogether, the towing tractors move 900 containers daily on average, each weighing a remarkable two to five tons. A total of 17 tons at a time can be moved by the vehicles’ small and agile power packs at a maximum speed of 30 km/h.

The Deutsche Post specified high-traction towing tractors for the air freight hub of its express and logistics subsidiary, DHL. “Therefore we equipped the MULAG towing tractors with Allison 1000 Series fully-automatic transmissions. They have several gears – six forward and one reverse – and in combination with a robust industrial diesel engine they are perfect for handling heavy freight,” said Hubert Bitsch, who is responsible for service ground-support vehicles at MULAG.

“The Allison fully-automatic transmission is very operator-friendly. You only have to choose the forward or reverse gear, and then you can accelerate. The transmission is low-maintenance, robust and reliable; it transfers engine power to the wheels without interrupting

traction, enabling a fast approach. This is very important, because the time frame for freight handling is narrow. Manual transmissions would not work in our business,” finished Freund succinctly.

MULAG Comet 6 Towing Tractors

Net weight	6,000 kg
Traction	40 kN
Engine	Deutz-diesel 64 kW (87 HP)
Transmission	Allison fully automatic transmission 1000 Series
Length	3,230 mm
Width	1,600 mm
Height	2,160 mm
Turning radius	3,900 mm (outer wheel)

About DHL Hub Leipzig GmbH

In May 2008, Deutsche Post DHL opened DHL Hub Leipzig, the air freight hub of its express and logistics subsidiary DHL, at Leipzig/Halle airport following 18 months of construction and a comprehensive testing phase. To date, the group has invested approximately 350 million euros into the hub. On average, 1,600 tons of freight are handled every night, delivered by planes from all over the world to the European DHL air freight hub. The 6.5 kilometer sorting street is one of the biggest in Germany, able to handle more than 100,000 express packages and urgent documents per hour. Over 50 destinations in Europe, Asia and the United States are serviced from Leipzig/Halle in regular service during weekdays. Next to Cincinnati, Ohio, and Hong Kong, Leipzig/Halle is one of DHL Express network’s main trade centers worldwide. DHL employs over 3,500 people at its location in Schkeuditz, situated between Leipzig and Halle.

About MULAG

MULAG Fahrzeugwerk Heinz Wössner GmbH u. Co. KG is a leading manufacturer of airport ground-support vehicles and roadside-maintenance equipment. The company is in Oppenau, Baden-Wuerttemberg, with another location in Bad Peterstal-Griesbach in the Black Forest, where MULAG was founded in 1953 by Heinz Wössner. The company name is composed of Motor Universal Lasten Arbeits Gerät and refers to the agricultural vehicles initially manufactured. MULAG currently employs 220 people.

About Allison Transmission

Allison Transmission is the world’s largest manufacturer of fully-automatic transmissions for medium- and heavy-duty commercial vehicles, medium- and heavy-tactical U.S. military vehicles and hybrid-propulsion systems for transit buses. Allison transmissions are used in a variety of applications including on-highway trucks (distribution, refuse, construction, fire and emergency), buses (primarily school and transit), motor homes, off-highway vehicles and equipment (primarily energy and mining) and military vehicles (wheeled and tracked). Founded in 1915, the Allison business is headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana, U.S.A. and employs approximately 2,800 people. Allison has manufacturing facilities and customization centers located in China, The Netherlands, Brazil, India and Hungary, with a global presence, serving customers in North America, Europe, Asia, Australia, South America and Africa. Allison also has approximately 1,400 independent distributor and dealer locations worldwide. More information about Allison is available at www.allisontransmission.com.

Press Enquiries

Roland Moore-Colyer, Propel Technology, Bloxham Mill, Barford Road, Bloxham, Banbury, Oxfordshire, UK, OX15 4FF. +44 (0)1295 722863 / +44 (0) 7547 242674. roland@propel-technology.com

Miranda Jansen, Allison Transmission Europe B.V. Marketing Communications, Baanhoek 188, 3361GN Sliedrecht - The Netherlands, Tel: +31 78-6422 174. miranda.jansen@allisontransmission.com

Pictures



© Allison Transmission

A total of 17 tons at a time can be moved by the MULAG Comet 6 towing tractors with Allison fully-automatic transmissions at a maximum speed of 30 km/h.



© Allison Transmission

The 128 MULAG towing tractors equipped with Allison transmissions move 900 containers daily on average, each weighing a remarkable two to five tons.



© Allison Transmission

Each Allison-equipped Comet 6 towing tractor operates mainly between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.; some vehicles are also needed during the day.



© Allison Transmission

“The Allison fully-automatic transmission transfers engine power to the wheels without interrupting traction, enabling a fast approach. Manual transmissions would not work in our business,” said Jens Freund, Duty Manager of Ground Support Equipment at DHL Hub Leipzig.



© Allison Transmission

During the day, most of the 128 MULAG Comet 6 towing tractors with Allison 1000 Series transmissions wait in front of the DHL distribution center for nightly operation.



© Allison Transmission

The 128 MULAG Comet 6 towing tractors at DHL Hub Leipzig are equipped with Allison 1000 Series fully-automatic transmissions.

This press release may contain forward-looking statements. All statements other than statements of historical fact contained in this press release are forward-looking statements. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as "may," "will," "should," "expect," "plans," "project," "anticipate," "believe," "estimate," "predict," "intend," "forecast," "could," "potential," "continue" or the negative of these terms or other similar terms or phrases. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve known and unknown risks. Factors which may cause the actual results to differ materially from those anticipated at the time the forward-looking statements are made include, but are not limited to: risks related to our substantial indebtedness; our participation in markets that are competitive; general economic and industry conditions; our ability to prepare for, respond to and successfully achieve our objectives relating to technological and market developments and changing customer needs; the failure of markets outside North America to increase adoption of fully-automatic transmissions; the discovery of defects in our products, resulting in delays in new model launches, recall campaigns and/or increased warranty costs and reduction in future sales or damage to our brand and reputation; the concentration of our net sales in our top five customers and the loss of any one of these; risks associated with our international operations; brand and

reputational risks; our intention to pay dividends; and labor strikes, work stoppages or similar labor disputes, which could significantly disrupt our operations or those of our principal customers. Although we believe the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are based upon reasonable assumptions, we can give no assurance that the expectations will be attained or that any deviation will not be material. All information is as of the date of this press release, and we undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement to conform the statement to actual results or changes in expectation.

###