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Improving service of Sheffield trams with new training solutions

In a new project for public transport operator Stagecoach in the UK, Semcon will develop training to assist the servicing of the new Citylink trams for the Supertram network in South Yorkshire. Quicker and more effective maintenance means more reliable trams and greater availability for passengers. This is in line with Semcon's aim to grow its business within product information solutions for the rail industry.

In this new project Semcon will develop a training set up for service technicians to learn the CAN Bus system used on the Citylink trams. A Controller Area Network [CAN bus] is a specialized communications network designed to allow microcontrollers and devices to communicate with each other's applications without a host computer. It is used on trams, for example, to control doors, heating, ventilation and air conditioning [HVAC] as well as the Master Controller.

Semcon's experience of CAN Bus and other similar systems commonly used throughout heavy and light rail vehicles creates good possibilities for similar projects in the future.

"The ability to safely interrogate CAN Bus and Multifunction Vehicle Bus [MVB] enables operators to access valuable data, which may not be available to them directly. Resulting in quicker, improved diagnostics and more reliable maintenance work", says Steve Beard, Business Development Manager Rail, Semcon UK.

Great potential for growth

The demand for remotely accessible up-to-date service and maintenance information in the rail industry is increasing. By making sure service technicians get appropriate training and have access to the latest technical documentation, the cost of downtime can be reduced. Semcon has long experience of delivering product information and training solutions for more efficient service and maintenance.

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"We are now in the early stages of our journey to grow our business within rail. Today, we are one of the leading suppliers of product information to a multitude of industries, where rail is one where we have the ambition to expand substantially over the coming years", says Johan Ekener, Business Area President at Semcon Product Information.

The project for Stagecoach is planned to run during the first quarter of 2021 as a collaboration between Semcon UK and Semcon Germany, within the business area Product Information.

[Stagecoach Group PLC](#) is one of the UK's leading public transport businesses running bus, coach and tram services.

[Read more about Semcon's offering towards the rail industry.](#)

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