

Press release

Volume of gas transported by rail is increased by 10,000 tonnes

Budapest, 4 July 2023 – Compared to last year, in 2023 Rail Cargo Hungaria Zrt. will deliver 10 thousand tonnes more carbon dioxide gas by single wagonload transport for food industrial and medical purposes to domestic destinations and for export on behalf of Linde Gáz Magyarország Zrt. Shifting 30% of its annual transport volume from road to rail will enable the company being among the market leader gas producers in the country to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its logistics activities and gain greater control over transport costs. To this end, the company has acquired additional 30 tank wagons.

Carbon dioxide gas is an important raw material for the pharmaceutical industry, emergency care, soft drink production and horticulture and it can be transported only in accordance with strict safety standards. The natural gas source is provided by Linde's site in Répcelak, from where it is forwarded by trains of Rail Cargo Hungaria (RCH) to the plants and consumers in Budapest, in the North-Eastern regions of Hungary and abroad.

"The three most important factors underlying the decision were cost efficiency of rail transport, reduction of emissions and the improvement of customer supply," said Ákos Hegedüs, CEO of the company.

Single wagon transport

The market leader rail freight company performs this task by single wagonload transport. This requires a high level of organisation, comprehensive range of machinery and equipment and the involvement of experienced professionals. In order to be able to transport tank wagons e.g., from Répcelak to Sajószentpéter, RCH has to carry out multiple shunting and sorting manoeuvres at three different marshalling yards. This is a labour-intensive, energy- and time-consuming activity requiring the extensive use of traction and shunting vehicles. The three-day transport of more than 350 kilometres must be carried out without delay and at a steady pace due to the technological requirements of the product. This also requires a complex transport solution, because the technical conditions of offloading large quantities of gas at the receiving stations are not available. Forwarding carbon dioxide gas by rail is also advantageous from a safety point of view since this transport mode precludes many traffic risks from the outset.

Environmentally friendly transport with state subsidy

Maintaining this essential, but expensive rail technology is made possible by the Hungarian government, providing an annual amount of HUF 6.4 billion as state aid for a period of five years. This funding enables to partly compensate the costs of the shunting locomotives, shunting staff, technical, commercial, operational experts and the additional operating costs of the marshalling yards.

"Our company has successfully applied for state aid and based on our flexible transport solutions we could develop transport conditions for the environmentally committed Linde Gáz Magyarország Zrt that have facilitated the company's decision to shift more traffic to rail," said Norbert Körös, Member of the Board of RCH and CEO.

Thanks to the state support, Rail Cargo Hungaria can deliver the goods of another 700 Hungarian small and medium-sized companies to their destinations. In addition to gases, the maintenance of this rail logistics service is essential for the safe transport of logs, scrap metals, dangerous goods, chemicals, paper, cellulose and mineral oil products.

More information:

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