

Press Release

Eurotunnel signs contract with euromicron subsidiary MICROSENS

Critical infrastructures in the focus of investment

Frankfurt am Main / Hamm, dated May 18, 2016 - MICROSENS GmbH & Co. KG, a company of the euromicron group, recently won a tender of Eurotunnel. In the context of the modernization project for the data transfer infrastructure, the company will supply more than 500 robust industrial switches of the latest generation. Thanks to a highly available fiber optic IP infrastructure, the operating corporation of the Channel Tunnel, the Eurotunnel Group, is able to implement the secure data transmission in the tunnel, thus ensuring an increase of the productivity and of the operational reliability.

The investment into state-of-the-art transmission technology connected over Gigabit Ethernet and fiber optic links permitted the interconnection of diverse applications and an efficient operation of the tunnel. High availability and an appropriate performance are indispensable factors required to achieve these objectives. These are reached by means of the robustness of the MICROSENS system, which is already ensured via the hardware design of the components, among other parameters. In the case of a disruption, the fiber optic ring topology permits the automatic failure detection as well as the subsequent automatic repair of the architecture within milliseconds in order to ensure the availability of the complete infrastructure.

Eurotunnel, the operators of the Channel Tunnel, have decided to deploy IP technology and are now using the MICROSENS switches. Additionally, two physically separated networks are set up. Among other purposes, the "critical network" is designed to perform the surveillance and control of technical processes (SCADA) which are directly related to the railway traffic. Specifically, this affects the control of the railway traffic, the halting of trains, signalling equipment, as well as smoke and fire detectors. The second operating system is used for less critical applications, such as video-surveillance, telephony, and the monitoring of automation processes.

The Channel Tunnel was opened in 1994. It is a "pure" railway tunnel which is used for the transport of goods and passenger transfer. Up to now, 360 million passengers have been transported through the Channel Tunnel. In the year 2015, an average of 60,000 travellers per day used the tunnel to pass the Channel. Moreover, 52,000 tons of goods were transported on average per day. This makes the Channel Tunnel one of the most-frequented railway lines of the world and in this sense represents a unique and important strategic infrastructure.

"An integrated transport system such as the Channel Tunnel needs to be considered just as critically important as power plants, water works or data centers. As the operator, we accordingly invest in modern communications technologies with redundancy mechanisms in order to maintain the operability of the tunnel and to ensure the safety of the passengers and the goods transported at any time," says Jean-Luc Pochet, Infrastructure Director Eurotunnel.

The technical infrastructure (operation, surveillance, and maintenance of the tunnel) and the shuttle trains transporting the vehicles are administrated by Eurotunnel, a subsidiary of the Eurotunnel Group SE.

"For Eurotunnel, safety is the top priority. The significance of the Channel Tunnel is not only an economical one, considering the value of the transported goods. As we are also transporting passenger, it has a human dimension, as well. The equipment of the tunnel under the Channel with MICROSENS transmission systems permits the secure operation of the tunnel and guarantees the safety of the passengers transported," explains Jürgen Hansjosten, member of the management board of euromicron AG. "For MICROSENS and euromicron, this project is an excellent opportunity to provide appropriate solutions and to prove their strategic orientation in the field of "critical infrastructures".

For further information, please see the website of the vendor at www.microsens.com.

About euromicron

euromicron AG (www.euromicron.de) that unites medium-sized high-tech companies from the fields of Digital Buildings, Critical Infrastructures and Smart Industry. As a German specialist for the Internet of Things, euromicron enables its customers to network business and production processes and successfully move to a digital future. From design and implementation, operation, to related services – euromicron implements customized solutions and creates the IT, network and security infrastructures required for them. As a result, euromicron lets its customers migrate existing infrastructures gradually to the digital age. euromicron's expertise helps the company's customers increase their agility and efficiency, as well as develop new business models that lay the foundation for commercial success down the road. The technology group is headquartered in Frankfurt/Main, has been listed on the stock exchange since 1998 and employs around 1,800 people at 30 locations. The euromicron Group comprises a total of 14 subsidiaries, including the brand names Elabo, LWL-Sachsenkabel, MICROSENS and telent. euromicron AG generated total sales of €345 million in fiscal year 2015.

About MICROSENS

Since 1993, MICROSENS GmbH & Co. KG has been standing for fiber optic solutions. As one of the pioneers of fiber optic transmission systems, the internationally active company covers all performance sectors of fiber optic technology. Starting with solutions for future-proof office networking and high-availability in rough environments, the product portfolio ranges from large-scale site networking and interconnection of computing centers up to high-performance Wide Area Networks (WANs). In all these fields of application, MICROSENS provides and ensures efficient, fast, and secure data transfer. As an internationally successful manufacturer, MICROSENS distributes its products on a worldwide scale. In addition to the company headquarters in Hamm in Westphalia (Germany), MICROSENS also has sales subsidiaries in France and Poland to optimally fulfil the diverse requirements of its customers on-site.

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Photo 1: Profi Line Modular Switch with 12 Port Extension Module with DIN-Rail, 8 Fiber Optic Ports



Photo 2: Eurotunnel

