

INSPIRE — ENCOURAGE — ACT:  
SUCCESS DEPENDS ON COURAGE,  
WHICH IN TURN IS A COMBINATION  
OF SELF-ASSURANCE AND  
DETERMINATION.

**BVL<sup>7</sup>**

## BVL ...

- ... is an open **platform** for people who are passionately committed to logistics and supply chain management worldwide.
- ... a unique **network** bringing together specialists and leading figures from the worlds of business, science and politics.
- ... an active **community** whose members “move mountains” with enthusiasm – and who learn with and from each other.
- ... is non-profit, objective and **independent**.
- ... does not represent special interests.
- ... promotes the **exchange** of knowledge and experience.
- ... communicates the **importance** of logistics and supply chain management.
- ... drives the **ongoing development** of the sector.

## BVL members can ...

- ... expand their personal **network**.
- ... access up-to-date **knowledge**:
  - market expertise
  - facts and figures
  - know-how and experience
- ... identify and evaluate **trends** more easily.
- ... build **contacts** on both sides of the market.
- ... **benchmark** their standing in the market.

## Services of BVL:

**Events** – free and fee-based events to spread knowledge and promote networking

**Knowledge** – Logistics Indicator, research, Web platforms, webinars and seminars, academy

**Publications** – studies, position papers, conference proceedings, green papers, guidance documents

**Supply Chain Day** – working together to promote image, awareness and acceptance

**“Logistics Heroes”** – image campaign of the “Wirtschaftsmacher”, i.e. Business Makers, initiative

**Awards** – inspiration for logistics in industry and academia

# Inspire – Encourage – Act

## 2019 Report of the Board

*The BVL Board in September 2019:*

*Prof. Thomas Wimmer, Karl Gernandt, Dr. Karl A. May, Josip T. Tomasevic (Chairman of the Advisory Board), Andreas Reutter, Tim Scharwath, Dr.-Ing. Torsten Mallée, Prof. Katja Windt, Stephan Wohler, Robert Blackburn (President), Frank Wiemer, Joachim Limberg (Vice-Chairman of the Board), Prof. Kai Furmans (Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board) and Dr. Stefan Wolff (Accountant)*

*Other Board members:*

*Alexander Doll, Frank Dreeke, Peter Gerber, Dr.-Ing. Christian Jacobi (Chairman of the Research Council) and Christina Thurner*



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# Inspire – Encourage – Act

Dear Members, Dear Readers,

“Inspire – Encourage – Act” was – and still is BVL’s theme for 2019 and the International Supply Chain Conference, and this motto strikes a deep chord with me personally. It is my impression that it also resonates deeply with you as members of BVL. It’s certainly good to have courage and to use this courage, especially in times like these.

We took advantage of the International Supply Chain Conference a few months ago and of many other events and meetings to emphasise just how great the potential of logistics is for the future, provided that we have the courage to use the opportunities that present themselves. Logistics is a driver of digital change and will be the key element in tomorrow’s world. It can and will be the force that shapes the future in many different areas of the economy.

Our association is at the heart of things. It is the world’s leading supply chain network – and not just the biggest but also the most active. We unite some 11,300 people whose daily efforts in the field of logistics and supply chain management help to ensure that national economies function smoothly, that people can focus on the work in front of them, and that companies can perform the tasks they’re intended to perform – namely providing people with jobs, creating products and services that makes peoples’ lives better, and generat-

ing a profit so that they can operate as successfully as possible for as long as possible. Our members come from companies of all kinds, from big to small, from world-famous brands through to firms with a more regional focus, and from the world of research and academia. This is something we can be proud of.

My colleagues on the Board and I decided on the theme for 2020 at our strategy meeting at the end of November, and we view the new motto as a fundamental call to action for the decade ahead – the 20s of the 21st century. “Sustainability in Action – Winning the Next Decade” is theme for the coming year. The challenges we will face include a shifting world order, transformation, change management and leadership in what is being called a “VUCA-World” (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, Ambiguity). Creativity and innovation, transformation and agility are just some of the ways we can respond to these challenges. The overarching keyword is, of course, sustainability – an objective that underlines the need for corporate responsibility in three dimensions: the economic, the ecological and the social.

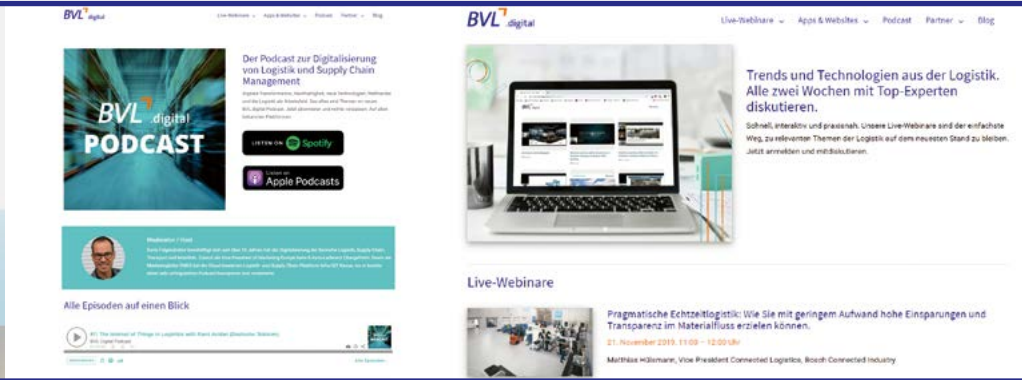
It is in this spirit that we will be tackling the challenges of the coming decade, and I am convinced that our efforts will be successful. This applies both to BVL itself and to the logistics industry, an industry

that is a regular source of new and important ideas and inspiration for our expert and knowledge network. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all our full-time and honorary colleagues for their hard work and commitment in 2019. I look forward to talking and interacting with you all in the coming year, which will surely provide a great many occasions and opportunities for fruitful exchange.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Blackburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Robert Blackburn  
BVL President



*Together with his team, Dr. Christian Grotemeier, Managing Director of BVL.digital GmbH, is pressing ahead with the activities of this new company. The podcasts and webinars are particularly popular with users, and there is also a great deal of public interest in the studies and other services of BVL.digital.*

## BVL.digital offers content and services

Together with his team, Dr. Christian Grotemeier, Managing Director of BVL.digital GmbH, is pressing ahead with the activities of this new company. The podcasts and webinars are particularly popular with users, and there is also a great deal of public interest in the studies and other services of BVL.digital.

Users of BVL.digital can take part in regular live webinars and listen to podcasts from the comfort of their own home or at the workplace. The portfolio of the unit also includes logistics studies and mood barometers as well as digital services that help logistics managers to make day-to-day decisions or build their professional networks.

**Live webinars** Every fortnight BVL.digital streams a new live webinar, in which the participants can discuss key topics with logistics experts. Those who don't have the time to take part live can access the webinars at a later date when it suits them. The lecturers are real-world experts who share their knowledge, report on their experiences and also answer questions. Access to the webinars is by either one-off ticket or one-year pass. The one-year pass also includes access to the archive with over 30 past episodes.

**Podcast** The "BVL.digital Podcast" has been on air since September. Once a fortnight, moderator Boris Felgendreher talks to pioneering individuals, out-of-the-box thinkers, decision-makers and movers in the logistics sector about topics like digital transformation, sustainability, technologies and innovations, start-ups, world trade and logistics as an occupation. The podcast is available free of charge on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, Soundcloud and all other standard platforms. Users can also subscribe to the podcasts to ensure they don't miss any of the episodes.

**"Technologieradar"** BVL is working with business consultants Capgemini Invent to assess which technologies are suitable for warehouse use. A "Technologieradar" working group is in the process of systematically documenting various technologies from drones and data glasses through to driverless forklift trucks, submitting these applications and options to an in-depth review – with the focus explicitly not on specific products but on the technologies themselves. The findings are being published on the Internet and continuously updated. The website is operated together with the Huss-Verlag specialist publishing company, which means that daily updated new and other information from the world of intralogistics is also available. Companies making investment decisions for their warehouses can draw on this information to rapidly identify the applications that might be best suited to their specific requirements.

**BVL-Connect** The BVL-Connect app has been part of the BVL.digital portfolio from the outset and has now been comprehensively updated to provide a wider range of functions and ensure easier handling. After registering, users can create their own profile and share information and ideas with other users in the form of posts via an interactive pinboard – unfiltered and with no algorithms. They can also discuss the topics that interest them and interconnect with other members in group chats or via private messages.

**Accelerating Urban Logistics** Logistics managers face major challenges as a result of "slow" cities. How efficient is the flow of road traffic? Which German cities are fast and which ones are particularly slow? How does the flow of traffic change during the course of the day? And what can cities and logistics managers do to make sure that everyone in the city reaches their destination more efficiently? These and other questions are the focal points of a joint study of BVL.digital and Here Technologies. The study is based on 58 billion traffic data points and the assessments of around 400 logistics experts. BVL.digital presented the study at the International Supply Chain Conference, and it generated a great deal of interest among the public at large.

**More traffic on the railways?** How can freight transports be moved to the railways? This was the question BVL put to more than 340 logistics managers. The majority believe that there is potential for moving freight to rail – provided that the quality of service meets the required criteria and that reliability levels improve. The experts say that it is the policymakers who are responsible for pushing ahead with the necessary developments. The participants in the online survey conducted in April in cooperation with the German Transport Ministry included shipping companies from trade and industry, logistics service providers, rail transport companies and rail infrastructure operators, port and terminal operators, IT service providers, associations and experts from science and research.

Dr. Christian Grotebauer, Managing Director of BVL.digital GmbH, presented the findings during a panel discussion of the Association of German Transport Companies (VDV) at the transport logistic fair in Munich.

**Digital tools in transport logistics** BVL.digital joined forces with IT and communication technology service provider T-Systems to explore the role of drivers in the digitalization of the transport chain and to identify how digitalization can already mitigate the impact of the shortage of drivers today. "Time is the decisive factor", explains Christian Grotebauer. "If we can increase the capacity utilisation of a vehicle, for example, then this also saves valuable driver working time. The same applies if loading and unloading routines on the ramps are so well organised that there are no long waiting times." There are many digital solutions that can help to make these things happen:

43 percent of respondents in trade and industry use electronic documents, for example. The challenges faced in this area include interface management, and the survey shows that the relevant actors need to become more open to data exchange processes.

**Seasonal logistics** In May, the German Federal eCommerce and Mail Order Association (bevh) and BVL.digital staged a workshop to discuss challenges and potential solutions in the area of seasonal logistics. With inspiration from multiple kick-off presentations on the topics of demand planning, robotics in intralogistics and transport logistics, the logistics managers talked about their strategies to ensure that the run-up to Christmas was as stress-free as possible. They agreed that more effective concepts for personnel recruitment were needed despite the increasing levels of automation in the ware-

## Links to the webpages of BVL.digital

Homepage: [bvl-digital.de](http://bvl-digital.de)

Live-Webinars: [bvl-digital.de/webinare](http://bvl-digital.de/webinare)

Podcast: [bvl-digital.de/podcast](http://bvl-digital.de/podcast)

Technologieradar: [www.technologieradar.de](http://www.technologieradar.de)

Traffic flow study: [www.acceleratingurbanlogistics.com](http://www.acceleratingurbanlogistics.com)

Digital instruments in transport logistics: [bvl-digital.de/digitalisierung-transportlogistik](http://bvl-digital.de/digitalisierung-transportlogistik)

house. There was also consensus that there is a need for dialogue between online traders and CEP service providers in order to trial-run more efficient concepts for delivery to the end customer.



## Networking for production and logistics

Production and logistics are growing ever closer together, as also shown by the concepts from BMW, Komsa and Bosch that have won the supply chain awards in recent years. This is also why BVL became involved in the activities of the Manufacturing Excellence Network (MX) in 2019 for the first time – with Prof. Thomas Wimmer, Chairman of the Executive Board of BVL, taking over as Chairman of the MX Board. The aim of this cooperation is to intensify network activities for production and logistics. The work of MX is geared towards identifying and showcasing best practices – by inviting entries for the MX Award, and by presenting the awards during the MX

Dialogue and the MX Tour, during which the award-winning projects are displayed in different locations.

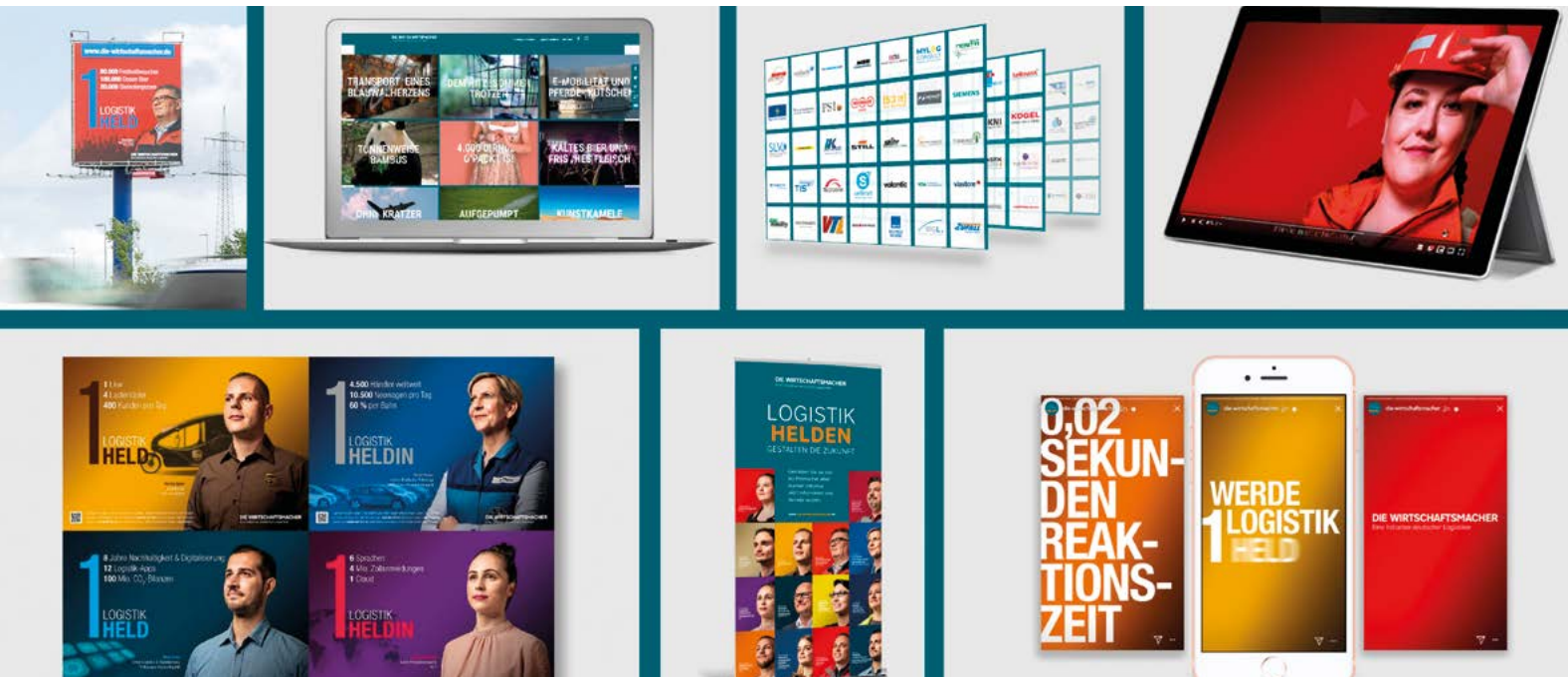
To retain and secure value added in Germany: this is the guiding principle behind the activities of MX. These activities are additionally driven by the commitment of specialists to work together to share and advance expertise and know-how. This exchange is important and helpful for production managers and all service providers involved in the value added process in order to stay abreast of the latest innovations and make use of new ideas and concepts in their own field of activity.

The winners of the MX Award 2019 are:

**Continental Automotive GmbH,**  
Karben plant:  
overall winner and category  
"Information Technology"

**Pas Deutschland GmbH,**  
Neuruppin location:  
categories "Product Innovation" and  
"Process Innovation"

**Metallwerk Windeck GmbH,**  
Kloster Lehnin:  
category "Customer Focus/Best SME"



## “Wirtschaftsmacher” showcase logistics heroes

The “Logistics Heroes” image campaign was launched in June 2019, and the response has been overwhelming. The KPIs are very impressive – also thanks to the support of BVL as co-initiator. Those behind the campaign have the wind at their backs as we enter 2020 and intend to do everything they can to promote the “Image of Logistics”.

It all began in the highly active “Image of Logistics” focus group of BVL. An initial idea fast became a concrete project driven forward by a creative working group. Things really got moving after the “Die Wirtschaftsmacher – an Initiative of German Logistics Experts” made their first public appearance at the International Supply Chain Conference in 2018. The year 2019 has now come and gone – and can be judged a success from the perspective of the “Wirtschaftsmacher” and the entire logistics sector. The Germany-wide “Logistics Heroes” campaign was launched at the beginning of June to mark the start of the transport logistic fair and reached high numbers of people by the end of 2019. The landing page was visited by just under 60,000 people, for example, and the motifs and image galleries of the “Wirtschaftsmacher” were displayed to the target group more than 80 million times. Alongside the 14 logistics heroes who were the faces of the campaign, the “Insights” – short stories from the day-to-day world of logistics – also generated a great deal of interest. The “white-papers” on career options and sustainability were also very popular. Moreover, it is estimated that press releases, interviews and articles reached over 160 million people, and the

“traffic towers” on three motorways featuring campaign motifs ensured far-reaching visibility, with eight million people noticing the giant advertising panels.

### Joint mission

The initiative meanwhile boasts over 100 participants – logistics providers, industrial and trading companies, media firms, universities, software providers, federations and associations like BVL who are committed to promoting this shared idea. Nearly all of them use their communication channels to disseminate the content of the campaign or stage creative activities at events to boost its visibility. BVL, for example, promoted the campaign by providing the “Wirtschaftsmacher” with ample opportunity to showcase the initiative at the International Supply Chain Conference 2019, including a presentation at the Gala Evening. In addition, two real-life “Logistics Heroes” trucks have been on the road since December.

### Attractive packages for 2020

The image campaign is being continued in 2020. The initiators are currently building a



*Frauke Heistermann (centre), longstanding member of the BVL Board and spokesperson of the “Wirtschaftsmacher”, talking to logistics heroine Luisa Kranhold (AEB) at a photo shoot*

budget by contacting old and new participants, who will in future have the chance to showcase their companies with a profile on the landing page and present themselves as attractive employers. Companies who want to be more heavily involved can book additional packages, such as the creation of their own “Logistics Heroes” motif or the production of editorial content for PR, website and social media. As spokesperson Frauke Heistermann says, the campaign is moving ahead full-steam.



## Up-and-coming logistics managers at DAV

Training is not always enough for everyone, and many young people see a degree as indispensable – but they want it to be hands-on.

In 2019, the German Academy for Foreign Trade and Logistics (DAV) celebrated 47 Bachelor graduates. Following the full-time three-year study programme in Bremen, around one in two of all graduates meanwhile go on to complete an additional Master's degree at partner university Heriot-Watt in Edinburgh in Scotland. The DAV combination of academic degree and application-focused curriculum remains a one-of-a-kind in the logistics sector. The experience of spending time in another country also provides added inspiration and skills. DAV students regularly enjoy outings and tours – and not just in northern Germany. Study trips in 2019 led to places like China (Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing) and Tanzania. As well as a road trip through Austria, Slovenia, Hungary and Croatia.

The programme leading to the qualification of "Specialist in Freight Transport and Logistics" certified by the Chamber of Commerce

is currently particularly popular. In mid-October 2019, a total of 30 participants began their part-time studies at DAV – the biggest class in years.

DAV is celebrating its 60th birthday in 2020, and the anniversary summer semester is scheduled to begin on April 4. "The goal of the institute is to provide training for future commercial managers (...), and graduates aim to work in mid-level and upper management jobs following the four-semester specialist programme (...)", was how the FAZ newspaper described DAV in February 1960 shortly before the intake of the first students. With its new, modern ideas and concepts, DAV still meets this standard today and will continue to do so in years to come.

The DAV Facebook page keeps interested parties up to date:  
[www.facebook.com/dav.bremen](https://www.facebook.com/dav.bremen)



DAV graduation ceremony at the Chamber of Commerce in Bremen



Quality management is a top priority. Managing Director Uwe Peters (right) and Thomas Zink, Director of Studies at DAV, with the certificate confirming the accreditation of BVL Campus, DAV and BVL Seminars in line with DIN EN ISO 9001:2015. The fact that the process and quality management system had already been optimised over a period of several years meant that the DIN requirements were fulfilled within an extremely short space of time. In 2019, DAV also obtained re-certification in accordance with the AZAV accreditation and approval regulations for the promotion of employment. This certification enables DAV students to take advantage of the educational grant system for career advancement.

## BVL Seminars shares specialist up-to-date knowledge

The further education and training programmes offered by BVL Seminars are not about sharing knowledge in a passive format but are geared towards interactive learning and exchange for the acquisition of new skills.

BVL Seminars is an integral part of BVL, and the two work together to pave the way for lifelong learning. One of the leading further training providers for logistics and customs topics, BVL Seminars enables people to advance their skills and expand their knowledge. In 2019, BVL Seminars obtained ISO 9001:2015 certification for the process and quality management system built up over the course of several years, and this system will now also be externally audited on an annual basis.

The requirements and challenges in the transport segment are changing constantly and at an ever-increasing pace. BVL Seminars has revamped its "Transport Manager" certification course in order to provide transport managers with the support they need

in their day-to-day work. The portfolio now comprises the two new seminars "Multi-modal and International Transport Management" and "Digitalization in Transport Logistics", both of which have been included in the study programme as elective modules.

Classic topics like supply chain management, warehouse management, logistics controlling and customs management are still in high demand. During the course of 2019, BVL Seminars extended its activities in the role of partner for in-house training courses. Hot further training topics like "CO<sub>2</sub> Management in Logistics" and "Incoterms® 2020" are now also part of the seminar portfolio and are included in the new seminar section "Trends 2020".

# Sie und wir gegen den Fachkräftemangel!

Nachwuchsförderung  
und Weiterbildung  
in der Logistik

DAV
BVL
Seminare

[www.bvl.de/weiterbildung](http://www.bvl.de/weiterbildung)





## The adaptable logistics sector develops bold new solutions

After ten years of growth, the logistics sector is now more sceptical about the outlook for the future. “Central banks used to lower interest rates to stimulate the economy. With interest rates as low as they are now, that’s currently not an option, and this is cause for concern”, said Robert Blackburn, BVL President, in his opening address. He sees the biggest risks for the logistics sector in the global economy uncertainty that is mainly the result of bad political decisions. In his view, this applies in particular to the ongoing and potentially growing trade conflicts – and naturally to Brexit with its implications for the overall fabric of Europe.

The BVL President was speaking at the beginning of the conference in his role as host, and was followed on stage by Alexander Birken, CEO of the Otto Group, Prof. Michael ten Hompel, Director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Material Flow and Logis-

tics IML, and Angela Titzrath, CEO of Hamburger Hafen und Logistik AG.

On the afternoon of day one of the conference, Federal Transport Minister Andreas Scheuer spoke before the attendees. The description he had provided for his presentation was as follows: “Inspire – Encourage – Act”: this conference theme is a perfect fit for the policies of the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure. Our railways, our roads, our waterways and our air routes are the foundation of Germany’s success and of our standing as logistics world champion. If we have the courage to systematically exploit the opportunities presented by digitalization and technical progress, then we can totally re-organise routines, transportation concepts and processes in order to make them more digital, more interconnected and more climate-friendly. We are employing a wide

“Inspire – Encourage – Act” was the theme for this year’s International Supply Chain Conference from October 23 to 25. The 3,207 attendees enjoyed a diverse programme at the 2019 conference with its new corporate design.

range of measures to achieve these goals, from the “Innovation Programme Logistics 2030” through to the “Action Alliance for Combined Transport”.

Having only recently been appointed CEOs, the panel participants on day one of the conference are responsible for the future strategic development of their companies and research establishments. This year’s panel discussion focused on the issues that call for inspiration and courage on the part of CEOs and underlined the need for them to actively empower those around them. What challenges do they see for supply chain management and logistics in the 2020s, and how do they intend to master these challenges? The discussion between Dr. Lars Brzoska (Jungheinrich), Reiner Heiken (Hellmann) and Prof. Jana Koehler (German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence) provided a number of interesting insights.

Lieutenant General Michael Vetter with author and publicist Sascha Lobo



Plenary session: Prof. Michael ten Hompel, Angela Titzrath, Robert Blackburn and Alexander Birken



Michael Müller, the Governing Mayor of Berlin, welcomed the attendees to the conference.



Prof. Thomas Wimmer, Michael Müller, Robert Blackburn, Chinese Ambassador Wu Ken, Erich Staake and Prof. Frank Straube



An international panel moderated by Frank Dreeke (BLG Logistics) and featuring Jessica Hanson (Bosch North America), Nick Vyas (University of Southern California) and Erick Yong (Greentec Capital) looked at digitalization, decision-making under uncertainty, world trade and the role of logistics in the development of Africa from different perspectives.

Many listeners were also fascinated by the discussion between Lieutenant General Michael Vetter and author and publicist Sascha Lobo on the topic of cybersecurity. Their exchange of ideas was the perfect conceptual companion to specialist sessions like “The Potentials Created by New Technologies”, “Artificial Intelligence Meets Logistics”, “The Future of the Logistics IT Landscape” or “Breaking Down Borders – Production and Logistics”. The presentations before full session by EU politician Guy Verhofstadt, Christoph Eltze (Rewe Digital), Martin Daum (Daimler) and Dr. Anselm Eggert (Lufthansa Cargo) rounded off the conference.

The Gala Evening at the Arena Berlin venue once again featured a wide range of highlights. For the first time in many years, the Governing Mayor – Michael Müller – welcomed the conference attendees in person. It’s worth mentioning that BVL has remained loyal to the German capital by staging this major event there for the last 36 years. Müller was impressed by the outstanding setting and the programme for the conference.

Before the German Award for SCM was presented, BVL Executive Board Chairman Prof. Thomas Wimmer talked to Chinese Ambassador H. E. Wu Ken on the stage together with Erich Staake, CEO of duisport. They discussed the potentials and opportunities of the New Silk Road – the “Belt and Road” initiative being developed and promoted by China. From the port of Duisburg, the route goes along the “Iron Silk Road” through Poland, Russia and Kazakhstan to the Chinese cities of Chongqing, Wuhan and Yiwu.

As many as 35 trains are already rolling along the 11,000-kilometre long stretch of rail each week. What is the potential of this giant infrastructure project – and where do the risks lie? As an aside: the planned project actually comprises two routes. The northerly “Silk Road Economic Belt” runs from China, through Central Asia, Iran, Turkey and the Russian capital of Moscow to Central and Western Europe, while the southerly “Maritime Silk Road” is designed to connect China’s maritime trade with Southeast Asia, the Middle East, East Africa and Europe.

During the Gala, BVL presented the German Award for SCM to the logistics team of the BMW Group. Prof. Thomas Strothotte welcomed the young winners of the Thesis Awards, who grouped together for a photo. And the “Wirtschaftsmacher” initiative entered the Arena with a large team of initiators, participants and logistics heroes and presented its activities and successes during its first year.

Big stage for the “Wirtschaftsmacher”: members of the initiative present the achievements of the first year at the Gala.



After the 2019 conference is before the 2020 conference: the conference team on Friday afternoon after the end of the event



## Systematic realisation of the digital transformation

Autonomous transport systems, artificial intelligence and Industry 4.0 are at the heart of BMW's "Logistics Next" project, which won the German Award for SCM 2019.



The commitment of top management to logistics as the centrepiece of the production process and a clearly defined roadmap were the preconditions for the success of the large-scale project comprising the key attributes "autonomous, transparent, interconnected and collaborative". Work is being performed simultaneously on different technologies at four major production locations – Dingolfing, Leipzig, Regensburg and Munich – and numerous system partners are sharing their new insights with each other. New technologies have been tested step by step and integrated in the value stream of the plants.

The "Logistics Next" transport and intralogistics project was launched in 2016 and is geared towards using the latest technologies to be able to respond to change easily and rapidly. These technologies include artificial intelligence (AI), Industry 4.0 concepts self-driving transport vehicles, electromobility and other alternative drive concepts, but also picking, transfer, sorting and positioning robots as support systems for the work performed by humans. The project is rounded off by the use of data glasses and paperless logistics processes as well as the intensive integration of specialists and management executives in the modification and improvement of operating routines.

The BMW Group plays a pioneering role in the use of autonomous transport systems both indoors and outdoors, as in the pilot project in Leipzig. A self-driving outdoor transport robot called an "auto-

trailer" autonomously moves semitrailers from their parking space to the loading and unloading station. At the Dingolfing plant, a machine known as the "autobox" transports loads of up to 25 tonnes within the plant fully independently using a guide-free navigation system.

The "sortbot" is already in series operation at the BMW Group plant in Leipzig. It detects small load carriers with the help of a 3D camera and artificial intelligence, identifies the optimum gripping point and then stacks the containers on the pallet using a suction gripper – thereby obviating the need for employees to perform these heavy and unergonomic tasks. Moreover, with the "pickbot", the "smart transport robot", the "placebot" or the "splitbot", the BMW Group logistics experts already have a number of further robots for complex applications either in the pipeline or in trial operation.

### The decision of the jury

The BMW Group project won the day against two other strong finalists, namely Airbus Operations GmbH and Loxxess AG. The key factor in the decision of the 17-member jury headed by Matthias Wissmann was that "Logistics Next" is a project in which the digital transformation is already well advanced. "The long-term nature of the objectives and plans, the stringency of the implementation concept and the enthusiasm of the protect participants as well as their team spirit are refreshing, innovative and exemplary – is as the cross-location cooperation between production, logistics and IT. The whole package really impressed us", said Wissmann.

### Strengthening combined transport

LKW Walter came out on top in the competition for the Supply Chain Sustainability Award 2019 presented jointly by the BVL associations in Austria and Germany. Second place went to logistics start-up Urban Cargo from Berlin, third place to Rail Cargo Austria. "In short, the aim of the winning project is to reduce the number of trucks on the roads". To this end, LKW Walter has entered into a commitment to move road transports to the railways and waterways within the framework of combined transport concepts, and the company is investing in state-of-the-art combined transport equipment. LKW Walter is continuously expanding its network for combined transports from Austria, Germany, the Benelux countries, the UK and Scandinavia to Southern and Eastern Europe in the form of unaccompanied trailers on trains or ships. It is also making use of environment-friendly engine types and optimising its transport planning processes.



Host Oliver Zipse, CEO of BMW, during his keynote before the plenary session of the Forum Automotive Logistics

## Pushing ahead boldly with innovation processes

On February 5 and 6, around 500 participants and 50 exhibitors took part in the Forum Automotive Logistics, a joint event of BVL and VDA, at BMW World in Munich.

“The opportunities presented and the challenges created by digitalization are real. We need to understand them and to develop our business models accordingly”, said Bernhard Mattes, President of the German Association of the Automotive Industry (VDA) in the opening session. “Modern automotive logistics is at the heart of this endeavour”, Mattes continued. “In the automotive supply chain, we have created a unique, complex and perfectly interwoven network of vehicle manufacturers, component suppliers and service providers. Alongside the quality of our products, it is this network that forms the foundation of the success of the German automotive industry.”

The first day of the event kicked off with presentations by three keynote speakers: host Oliver Zipse, formerly a member of and today Chairman of the Board of Management at BMW, outlined how value streams can be intelligently organised – from the very beginning all the way through to the customer. Prof. Stefan Asenkerschbaumer, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Management at Robert Bosch GmbH, explained

why supply chains should be digitalized and interconnected. And Dr. Jörg Mosolf, Managing Partner of the Mosolf Group, said that, for all the importance of digitalization, it will in future still be people who shape value added processes.

On the second day of the Forum, BVL President Robert Blackburn held a keynote on the outlook for and the potential of real-time control – a topic that is currently high up on the agenda in all sectors. “Real-time control is a basic precondition for the smart factory in the era of Industry 4.0 – for the kind of technology that permits cost-effective production all the way down to batch size 1 even in cases where the customer has highly specific preferences”, said Blackburn. He added that, in order to achieve this, all the relevant data must be available to all participants immediately and at all times, and that comprehensive full-scale data exchange must be reliably ensured. Blackburn: “In other words, real-time control is only possible through partnership. It is not something that can be dictated by one side only. If we are to continue to be successful in future,

it is important that we cooperate on equal terms in a networked environment.”

The central topics at this year’s Forum included automation and digitalization in all stages of the value added chain, production planning and control – also in view of ever more individual customer preferences – and the options created by intelligent interconnection and data exchange in real time, such as greater sustainability or the optimisation of the complex aftermarket supply chain. These topics were addressed by logistics experts from the automotive producers and component suppliers as well as business consultants and researchers.

The two-day event was rounded off by an opportunity to gain exclusive insights into real-world logistics. In addition to visiting the BMW factory, participants also had the chance to enjoy a tour of the development centre of Knorr-Bremse, the plant of MAN Truck & Bus or the depot of food delivery service Amazon Fresh.

## Insights into the trading world of the future

In 2019, BVL joined EHI, GS1 Germany and the German Brands Association as a further partner in the staging of the “Log” Trade Logistics Congress, ensuring that attendees can take advantage of a broader range of topics, speakers and hands-on presentations.

BVL's first-time involvement was a complete success, with the event enjoying a record attendance of roughly 430 participants. Individualised customer preferences, shorter planning times and fluctuating demand situations are just three of many factors that create new challenges for trading companies practically on a daily basis. Companies who want to successfully manage the ever more complex and dynamic logistics structures in the trading sector must also and increasingly address topics like growing personnel shortages in logistics centres, the numerous options for cooperation along the supply chain and the logistical challenges of cross-channel trading activities.

Prof. Michael ten Hompel, Executive Director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Material Flow and Logistics IML, sees the topic

of artificial intelligence as being equally significant. “It has the potential to turn logistics in the trading sector on its head.” Future scenarios in which 30 machines discuss the best way to pick products with a two-finger grabber are by no means unrealistic for the widely respected Dortmund-based logistics researcher. “Robots will be able to learn from each other in future”; said ten Hompel, with every robot that shares its knowledge moving up the machine pecking order.

Trust, technology, blockchain and last mile logistics were the most talked-about trading buzzwords at the event in Cologne. Robert Köbsch for example, Head of Supply Chain & Logistics at Edeka-owned food delivery service Bringmeister, presented an intelligent concept for the delivery of fresh products directly to the fridge, while

Stephan Wohler from Edeka's Minden-Hannover regional company outlined a logistics concept based on faster product availability and lean processes to give the consumer the best possible shopping experience.

Representatives of Hamburg-based Beiersdorf AG and drugstore giant DM also used the Trade Logistics Congress to present the initial findings of the pilot project for load carrier management using blockchain technology initiated by GS1 Germany. The key aim of the cooperation project was to replace the commonplace practice of paper-based step-by-step pallet exchange using pallet receipts with a far more efficient blockchain procedure. The initial verdict of the project participants was that this technology has a great deal of potential. The next steps in the project will involve defining further application cases.



*Attendees listened with great interest to the presentations at the Trade Logistics Congress in Cologne in March of this year...*



*... and used the breaks to engage in intensive discussion and build their networks.*



## Securing in-house know-how

The Forum Chemical Logistics of BVL took place in mid-May at the BASF location in Schwarzheide and the German Hygiene Museum in Dresden with the core topic “Using Resources Efficiently”.

Speaking to the some 140 attendees, host Dr. Colin von Ettingshausen, Commercial Managing Director & Director of Labour Relations at BASF Schwarzheide, emphasised that “this location has the potential to be the first port of call for the new Silk Road and to develop into a logistics hub.” When it comes to resources, the aim in Schwarzheide – as in other chemical locations – is to attract and retain qualified personnel. Thomas Schmidt (Infraserv Logistics) reported on the measures taken to this end at the Frankfurt location.

The starting point for a panel discussion chaired by Prof. Thomas Wimmer was the new chemical logistics study 2019 conducted by Miebach Consulting. The study shows that logistics really is a key factor in the success of companies, and it documents a certain amount of scepticism and reservations regarding the application of 4PL concepts. This scepticism is mainly driven by concerns about the loss of in-house know-how due to the outsourcing of management tasks. Panel members Dr. Klaus-Peter Jung (Miebach), Constantin Reuter (Camelot), Berthold Jesse (DB Cargo BTT), Dr. Andreas Backhaus (BASF) and Albert Schönecker (Covestro) confirmed these fears.

### Spare parts logistics: wide range of options for optimisation

It's probably fair to say that just about every spare parts logistics manager faces stretched personnel resources, a lack of storage space and limited funds. At the Forum Spare Parts Logistics on April 4 in Nuremberg, the 200 or so attendees talked about ways to press on with innovations despite these challenges. Prof. Alexander Martin from Erlangen-Nuremberg University spoke about using data analytics to improve entry into storage, stocking levels and delivery networks. “The influence of the availability, quantity and quality of data on the success of many projects should not be underestimated”, said the logistics researcher. Other speakers called attention to the effective use of artificial intelligence and underlined the importance of improving stock management concepts. According to VW logistics ex-

pert Matthias Heppding, obsolete spare parts can be identified and discontinued with the help of KPI reviews, process audits, order measurement, scrappage budgets and other measures.

The spectrum of optimisation measures ranges from lower component prices for customers who are still buying parts on the grey market through to the complete digital transformation of logistics processes. Outsourcing to a service provider can also be a recipe for success, as outlined by Helge Ketels, Head of Material Support & Optimization at Nordex Energy. “The precondition is exact documentation of the master and motion data as well as of all work processes including emergency solutions”, said the wind turbine logistics expert.



## “It’s amazing how much know-how is involved!”

On Supply Chain Day 2019, around 270 companies and organisations opened their doors and allowed visitors to take a look behind the scenes of operations that are normally hidden from view – thereby once again prompting many of the 23,000 visitors to express their amazement during this twelfth annual day of action.

Amazon opened all twelve logistics centres in Germany, Edeka and Rewe showcased their logistics activities, and Hornbach also opened its doors. At the F. W. Neukirch company in Bremen, it was all about how coffee finds its way into the cup. During the tour, one of the visitors was unable to hide his surprise: “You’re telling me this is a chaotic storage system? But everything’s perfect and so tidy.” The logistics story behind waste disposal is equally complex and exciting, as visitors to the Alba Group in Berlin found out. “It’s amazing how much know-how is involved!”, one visitor said, “this is something you normally never get to see.”

Steffen Bilger, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Transport Ministry, took part in the event organised by the BEHALA port and warehousing company at its Westhafen port. In a presentation before around 80 undergraduates and school students, Bilger described the wide range of logistics operations and the exciting challenges that lie ahead. “Germany is logistics world champion according to a World Bank study. You are all aware that the title of world champion is something you need to earn over and over again – and that it’s easy to lose. Making sure we have good employees is our best chance to defend our title”, said Bilger.

Interested listeners also had the chance to hear what companies, above all transport and transshipment providers, do to ensure that their activities are as sustainable as possible. Bremenports, for example, organised a tour across the “Lüneplate” compensation area in Bremerhaven, where birds and plants as well as water



buffalos and Galloway cattle have found a new home. In Augsburg, participants took a walk through the GVZ freight transport centre, where they not only saw the companies who operate in the centre but also learned about the bees and insects that live on the site.

What is also little known is the sheer innovative power of logistics. Self-controlled drone swarms and assistant robots in the warehouse are just two examples. Qualified employees are essential to the efficient deployment of new tools and methods, and more than ever the focus was on attracting specialists and up-and-coming talents. By organising their own events or taking part in career fairs, companies took the opportunity to showcase themselves to interested members of the public, undergraduates and school students as attractive employers. The biggest career fairs with up to 1,000 visitors included “From Click to Doorbell”

in Neuss, the training fair in Duisburg-Rheinhausen and “Logistics Night” in Osnabrück.

### “Best Logistics Brand”

On the eve of Supply Chain Day, BVL and special-interest magazine “Logistik heute” presented their joint “Best Logistics Brand” Award. The 33 award winners were presented with their trophies at an entertaining Award Night held in the Bertelsmann offices in Berlin. Brands were once again nominated in eleven categories in 2019. The categories covered major fields of logistics – from logistics property developers and logistics consultants, through manufacturers of industrial trucks and containers, service providers for transport management, through to airports, truck manufacturers and CEP and logistics services on road and water as well as in the air.

*Prof. Thomas Wimmer  
and “Logistik heute”  
Editor-in-Chief  
Matthias Pieringer  
competed the  
Award Night.*





## Interesting content, new design

When the leading transport logistic fair closed its doors on June 7, one thing was abundantly clear: the event had set a new record, with 2,374 exhibitors on the exhibition area, which now covered ten halls rather than the previous nine. In total, the fair attracted around 64,000 visitors from 125 countries to the Bavarian capital.

BVL was once again among the exhibitors and employed its newly designed trade fair stand in Munich for the first time. The new, fresh look with a wider palette of colours was very popular with the guests.

In its role as a partner of Messe München, BVL was also involved in the accompanying programme and organised special-topic forums. The forum on “Women in Logistics” appears to have hit a nerve beyond the confines of the fair, and the full rows of chairs underlined the high level of interest in this topic and the need for discussion. One attendee took the opportunity to ask the panel for concrete tips for her future career planning. At the end of the forum, she said that the event had given her great encouragement.

In the forum entitled “End of Globalisation? Outlook for International Trade”, Dr. Christian Grotemeier, Managing Director of BVL.digital, presented the findings of a survey focusing on trade tensions. The survey is part of the “Flows and Tolls” project in cooperation with transport logistic. During the forum, Matthias Magnor, COO Road & Rail at Hellmann, said he is convinced that changes in globalisation will create new opportunities for both freight transporters

and logistics service providers. BVL.digital was also one of the guests at the forum on “Rail Freight Transport: Challenges for Policy-Makers” organised by the Association of German Transport Companies”, where Grotemeier presented the findings of a survey on rail transport.

The image of logistics was also a topic at the fair. The BVL focus group of the same name discussed the benefits of “employer branding” in the effort to combat the skill shortage. It was also at the transport logistics fair that the “Wirtschaftsmacher” initiative launched its “Logistics Heroes” image campaign“.

### **Analysis: women in logistics professions**

The fact that women are still not particularly well represented in logistics is not a matter of skills or qualifications. It’s more a question of corporate culture whether or not women are attracted to the jobs that logistics entails. And there are still a lack of role models. These are the findings of BVL based on a member survey and one-on-one interviews conducted on behalf of transport logistic. The session “Male Preserve?! Opportunities for and with Women in Logistics” on the Wednesday of the fair explored this topic in greater depth.

Due to its steady growth and the increasing integration of high-quality logistics services in the value added chain of trade and industry, the logistics sector offers a wide range of career opportunities for both women and men. Today, women who work in logistics are mainly to be found in traditional office jobs such as controlling, purchasing or personnel. At the same time, “female” traits and skills like flexibility, focus on standard of service, systematic goal implementation, teamwork, efficiency, decision-making competence and conflict management are ideal for people who make strategic decisions and take on lead roles in modern organisations. Yet it is apparently difficult for women to decide in favour of a job in logistics, and “logistics manager” would therefore appear to be an almost unheard-of career aspiration for half of the population. This is not necessarily surprising, as there are very few role models for female career paths in logistics. The greater visibility of women who have made successful careers for themselves in the field would encourage others to also consider the sector as an option – in keeping with the motto “If she can see it, she can be it”.

## Impetus for theory and practice

The mission of the Scientific Advisory Board and the Research Council of BVL is to further logistics theory and application-focused logistics research.

The Scientific Advisory Board headed by Prof. Kai Furmans held two meetings in 2019 – one in Munich in June and the other in Berlin in October. One of the focal points of the work of this body were the preparations for the International Scientific Symposium on Logistics (ISSL) 2020 in Dresden in mid-June with the theme “Logistics for a Sustainable Future – Contributions from Science”. The members of the programme committee include Professors Kai Furmans, Michael Freitag, Bernd Hellgrath, René de Koster, Anne Lange and Thorsten Schmidt. Schmidt will also be the host for the event.

The working groups of the Scientific Advisory Board are addressing three core topics that will play a central role at the ISSL and are also subsequently to be featured in the “Logistics Research” (LORE) journal – “Intralogistics and Production Logistics”, “Transportation and Traffic” and “Management, Organisation and Co-ordination”. Prof. Alexander Hübner has taken over as Chairman of the Editorial Board of LORE from Prof. Herbert Kotzab, who will continue to serve the journal in the role of Editor-in-Chief as successor to Prof. Stefan Minner. BVL has been publishing the international scientific journal as a certified “C” category journal since 2009. Plans are in the pipeline to further raise the profile and awareness levels of LORE.

The members of the Scientific Advisory Board also gave their input to the “Trends, Strategies and Solutions” study compiled under the lead management of BVL.digital and the findings of which are to be successfully published in 2020.

The Research Council headed by Dr.-Ing. Christian Jacobi came together for three meetings in 2019 – in January in Frankfurt am Main, June in Munich, and October in Berlin. At the end of the year, 25 projects in the IGF joint industrial research programme for small and medium-sized companies were



*Coming together for meetings on the eve of the International Supply Chain Conference in Berlin – the Scientific Advisory Board chaired by Prof. Kai Furmans (9th from left) ...*

*... and the Research Council headed by Dr.-Ing. Christian Jacobi (10th from left)*



ongoing with a volume of just under 6.4 million euros – with the calendar year 2019 accounting for nearly 2.5 million euros of funding. 14 new projects were launched during the year under review, and the Research Council describes the research year 2019 as “patchy” overall. The outlook for 2020 is, however, positive, as the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs has offered the prospect of increased funding levels. In August and September, the Research Council forwarded 15 new long applications to the German Federation of Industrial Research Associations (AiF).

The Research Council participated in the International Supply Chain Conference with a science pitch moderated by Dr. Joachim Schmidt. At the end of the year, Dr. Michael Krings und Lars Bäumann – two long-time members of the body – left the Council. At the Members’ Meeting in Munich at the beginning of June, BVL thanked both men and presented them with the association’s badge of honour. Dr. Simon Deymann and Dr. Jörn Fontius are the two new members of the Research Council.



## Efficiency and ergonomics

BVL's Science Award for SCM 2019 went to Dr.-Ing. Sascha Feldhorst for his dissertation entitled "Automatic Activity and Context Recognition for Analysis of the Order-Picking Process".

*Award winner Dr.-Ing. Sascha Feldhorst and his doctoral supervisor Prof. Michael ten Hompel, flanked by Jury Chairman Prof. Wolfgang Kersten (right) and Martin Neuhold, the representative of sponsor EY*

In his dissertation and the subsequent implementation project, Feldhorst addressed a fundamental issue in the context of the relationship between artificial intelligence and machine learning on the one hand and humans on the other. In his field studies, he developed an automatic activity and context recognition system tailored to the requirements of order picking processes. For this purpose, he equipped warehouse personnel with sensors and filmed them during their work.

In this way, Feldhorst was able to identify factors that lead to work delays or place unnecessary burdens on employees. This knowledge

paves the way for more efficient and ergonomic order picking processes. Suitable solutions in this area are being offered by the start-up Motion Miners, which Feldhorst founded in 2017 together with two fellow students and whose business concept is based on the new technique. "Many order picking processes can be operated more than ten percent more cheaply and faster", is Feldhorst's initial verdict.

"Our award winner makes an important contribution to improving the quality of manual work overall. The fact that he has successfully put the technique he developed into practice under the umbrella of the Motion Miners

GmbH company he co-founded is impressive proof of the major relevance of his method and the insights he has gained", says Prof. Wolfgang Kersten, Chairman of the Jury for the Science Award for SCM and Director of the Institute of Business Logistics and General Management at Hamburg University of Technology.

In the final round, Feldhorst took the prize ahead of Dr.-Ing. Christian Hammel (Dresden) and Dr.-Ing. Patrick Kübler (Stuttgart). The Science Award for Supply Chain Management was supported by EY this year and carries a cash prize of 5,000 euros each for the winner and the supervising institute.

## Thesis Award presented for the tenth time

For the tenth year running, BVL highlighted the achievements of young people who decided to study logistics and successfully completed their degrees. The award winners – of whom there were 50 this year – were nominated by their professors, with the quality of their theses as the selection criterion.

In 2019, a scientific supervisor was appointed to oversee the award for these future logistics experts. This honorary post was taken on by Prof. Thomas Strothotte, President & Managing Director of Kühne Logistics University – KLU. This means that BVL and the Thesis Award can now benefit from the expert advice of an internationally renowned scientist.

Strothotte also moderated the Thesis Conference with five speakers at the International Supply Chain Conference. The Thesis Conference took place at the ISCC for the eighth time this year, and conference attendees had the chance to obtain first-hand information about the content of the award-winning dissertations and talk to the authors in person.



## Content and images for multi-channel PR

The press and PR activities of BVL comprise a wide range of formats from the traditional press folder to “scrollytelling” and span numerous different channels.

*Talking to the media at the BVL press conference on day one of the International Supply Chain Conference. Dr. Christian Groteemeier, Robert Blackburn and Prof. Thomas Wimmer*



In the first quarter, BVL addressed the target group of journalists with an updated new edition of the booklet “Logistics: Topics, Sources and Contacts” and drew their attention to the press services offered by the association. BVL also sent out 35 press releases during the course of the year. At all national events, the press office welcomed accredited journalists – in particular at the International Supply Chain Conference, where a well-attended press conference heard from BVL President Robert Blackburn, Prof. Thomas Wimmer, Chairman of the Executive Board, and Dr. Christian Groteemeier, Managing Director of BVL.digital. Moreover, BVL was present in the special-interest press in 2019 with close to 30 of its contributions – from guest commentaries to interviews.

The press and PR team once again publicised and reported on the events, the content and the other services and activities of BVL and BVL.digital – above all on the Internet, in the social media channels, on Youtube and, for the first time, with a special scrollytelling format mirroring the theme for the year and for the International Supply Chain Conference: “Inspire – Encourage – Act”. The idea behind this multimedia approach is to look at inspiration and encouragement not just from one angle but from many different perspectives – historically, based on a high number of topical stories, in personal statements and using content from the International Supply Chain Conference.

Members received nine issues of the LOG. Letter, four English-language LOG.Letters on

the Internet as PDFs, 50 regular issues of the LOG.Mail and six special issues of this electronic newsletter. The special issues contained information on the programme for the International Supply Chain Conference, the programme of the Forum Automotive Logistics and the results of the surveys for the Logistics Indicator. The four issues of BVL Magazin, now in its sixth year, focused on real-time in the value added chain, new work, mobility of the future and – under the heading “Inspire – Encourage – Act” – the core topics addressed at the International Supply Chain Conference. In a special enclosed with the November issue of the LOG.Letter, BVL reported in detail on the outstanding project that won the German Award for SCM.

Wherever possible, the story behind the “walk-and-talk” format is recorded on camera for BVL Magazin, with the result that the print product is now regularly supplemented by video clips. The LOG.Letter has also been available as a multimedia responsive website since the autumn of 2019, and this not only enhances the vibrant feel of reporting but also paves the way for updates between two issues. The variety of the topics prepared for the website at [www.bvl.de](http://www.bvl.de), the publication of reports on these topics via the social media channels and the increased use of videos has boosted the number of visitors to the website. Moreover, BVL currently has 4,000 followers on Facebook, 800 on Instagram and 7,500 on LinkedIn.

*Moving images for the multimedia channels of BVL: Lars Eggers (left) from the Press and PR team films the walk-and-talk of Christoph Meyer and Abdihrahman Ikar.*





For the members of BVL, the contact with colleagues from many working fields of logistics means that they can benefit from professional and personal interaction and exchange away from the workplace – and this is particularly convenient at the events staged by the Chapters.

In 2019, the Chapter Chairs in Germany and abroad, the Chairs of the Student Chapters and the Chairs of the Young Professionals Network once again played a huge part in making BVL a vibrant and extremely active association. All in all, 263 events were staged in Germany, while the international Chapters and Representatives organised 36 events. The formats ranged from the multi-day Germany tour by the Saxony Student Chapter and half-day and evening events at companies all the way through to well-attended regular get-togethers. Participation in events is not limited to the geographic location of any one Chapter.

This year's Chapter Management Meeting was hosted by the Mecklenburg-West Pomerania Chapter, after Chapter Chairs Prof. Nina Vojdani and Dr. Wolfram Grafe had invited the honorary officials of BVL to Rostock from June 20 to 22. Katja Wiedemann, Head of Member Services, was responsible for project management during the annual meeting of Chapter Chairs, Student Chairs and Friends of BVL, an event that is of major significance for all participants. One of the reasons for this is that the meeting provides an excellent opportunity to build contacts and discuss best practices in the activities of the Chapters. The guests were welcomed by BVL Board member Torsten Mallée and Prof. Thomas Wimmer, Chairman of the Executive Board. Katja Ahrens from the press and PR team pre-

sented the findings of the LOG.Letter reader survey and outlined the conclusions that were drawn with regard to this important BVL publication.

Jan-Ferdinand Lühmann from the Southern Bavaria Young Professionals network presented the pilot project "Digitalization of Chapter Event Organisation", and Nikolai Posanok from BVL.digital talked about the new features planned for the BVL-Connect app. The discussions in four working groups revolved around the topics of "Chapter Activities and Communication", "Attracting, Developing and Keeping New Talent", "Ladies in Logistics" and "Digital – Pilot Project". Other occasions on which the honorary officials come together include the

annual regional conferences and Junior Captains' Day for the Student Chairs and Young Professionals as well as – every two years – Captains' Day, when the newly elected Chairs pay a visit to head office in Bremen.

In the year under review, BVL awarded the badge of honour of the association to three Chapter Chairs – Ute Bankwitz (Berlin/ Brandenburg), Prof. Armin Schwolgin (South Baden/Upper Rhine) and Prof. Friedwart Lender (Southwest Saxony/Upper Franconia) – in recognition of their long-time commitment. The three former Chairs are now part of the "Friends of BVL" network and will continue to support the association in their new role.



### Examples: wide range of events

**Germany** The event organised by the Rhine/Neckar Chapters at Amazon in Frankenthal was fully booked on the very first day after the date for the event was announced. The tour of the warehouse lasted around three hours and provided participants with wide-ranging insights into processes in the highly automated warehouse and the Internet-based ordering system. Those who took part in the tour were particularly interested in the state-of-the-art robotics technology which sets the shelves in motion and drives them to the warehouse employees as if by an invisible hand.

Shortly before Easter, the BVL North Baden/Southern Palatinate and Rhine/Neckar Chapters paid a visit to SAP Deutschland with a total of 72 participants from a wide range of sectors of industry. Under the heading “Digitalization Trends in Logistics Based on Application Examples”, the guests were welcomed by Nils Buck (Chair of the BVL North Baden/Southern Palatinate Chapter) and Prof. Sebastian Herr (Chair of the Rhine/Neckar Chapter) as well as Tobias Eisel and Michael Rölli from SAP. The topics for the day were “Transformation through Innovation”, “Robotics and Automation”, “Machine Learning” and “Blockchain”.

The “Logistik-Manufaktur Baden-Württemberg” was staged at the end of July for the fifth time. This one-day event showcases the expertise and innovative drive of logistics in a federal state which is a leader in machine and plant engineering. This year saw just under 100 participants visit the Trumpf company in Ditzingen near Stuttgart, a market and technology leader in machine tools and laser systems for indus-

trial production. The event was additionally supported by sponsoring partners AEB, Adolf Würth and Sick.

**Young Professionals** In October, 50 participants from the Southern Bavaria Chapter paid a visit to the new Partyrent location in Munich. Jan-Ferdinand Lühmann, Chair of the Young Professionals, welcomed the guests to the fourth YP event of the year – and Tobias Viße, host and Managing Director of Partyrent München, told them all about his company. There followed a discussion on the topic “Paving the Way for New Players – What Winners Look Like in the Innovation Competition”, to which the network was delighted to welcome two highly respected European innovation experts – Prof. Stephan Friedrich von den Eichen, co-author of the management best-seller “The Innovator’s Dilemma”, and Dr. Thomas Mack.

**Student Chapters** The Saxony Student Chapter embarked on a tour of Germany from May 6 to 8, 2019. Starting in Dresden, 15 students of Business Engineering, Transport Management, Air Transport and Logistics set off on their trip. Their mission was to cover 1,200 kilometres, visiting five companies in three days. Their first stop was the distribution centre of Komsa AG in Hartmannsdorf. They then headed on to the Witron Logistik + Informatik GmbH company in Parkstein in the Upper Palatinate region. The final day began with a four-hour visit to Fraport, followed by a trip to HOLM, the House of Logistics and Mobility. Then, on their way back to Dresden, they paid a visit to the distribution centre of BLG Logistics in Erfurt.

It was also in May that the Hamburg Student Chapter had the chance to take part in a tour of the “Cap San Raphael”, one of the biggest container ships of the Hamburg Süd shipping company, during its layover in the port of Hamburg. The first highlight of the tour was a visit to the bridge – where the ten students experienced the “captain” feeling and were fascinated both by the panoramic view of the port and the operation of the giant crane systems. They heard about the day-to-day activities on the vessel and received answers to their questions about the stowage of containers.

**International** On March 12, the BVL Brazil Chapter visited the Agco company in São Paulo. Stephan Gruener and Bernd-Paul Koschate, the Chairs of the international Chapter, organised this first event of 2019 and were delighted that it was fully booked. 50 logistics managers and supply chain specialists from well-known companies like Bosch, Ford and VW took advantage of the opportunity to look behind the scenes of the company that won the German Award for SCM in 2016. Agco presented its “Agco Smart Logistics” project, and project partner 4flow staged a live demonstration of its intelligent transportation management system (iTMS), which is a central element of the concept. The participants engaged in a lively discussion, and all of them greatly appreciated this unique opportunity to share their experiences with the experts.



*Automation processes in the supply chain management were the focal point of a meeting of the Brazil Chapter at Bosch in Itupeva in October 2019.*





## Cooperation across generations

At the end of 2019, the association had 11,254 members, around 270 of whom work in an honorary capacity on behalf of the BVL network – as Chapter Chairs, as BVL Representatives, in the Young Professionals Network, on the three advisory boards or on the BVL Board.



*Around 120 members of BVL, including numerous members of the association's honorary bodies, attended the Members' Meeting in Munich.*

The sustainability and vibrancy of BVL is also reflected in the make-up of the association bodies. BVL regularly succeeds in interesting young people and more and more women in its work, and the result is an inspiring level of diversity. Many of the honorary officials continue to perform their tasks for as long as is permitted by the statutes – and subsequently remain active as members of the “Friends of BVL”. This ensures the best kind of cooperation between different generations of logistics and supply chain experts.

At the 41st Ordinary Members' Meeting of BVL on June 4 during the transport logistic fair in Munich, BVL President Robert Blackburn, Executive Board Chairman Prof. Thomas Wimmer and Member of the Executive Board Uwe Peters reported to the some 120 participating members on the work of the association in 2018 and the plans for 2019.

The members elected six new Board members, some of whom had already been co-opted in 2018: Alexander Doll (Deutsche Bahn AG), Prof. Kai Furmans (KIT, Karlsruhe University), Dr. Christian Jacobi (Agiplan GmbH), Tim Scharwath (Deutsche Post DHL), Andreas Reutter (Robert Bosch GmbH) and Stephan Wohler (Edeka Minden-Hannover Stiftung & Co. KG). At its meeting in November 2019, the Board co-opted a further member, namely Christina Thurner (Loxless AG), who will officially stand for election to the Board at the 2020 Members' Meeting.

Five BVL Board members successfully stood for re-election: Peter Gerber (Lufthansa Cargo AG), Karl Germandt (Kühne Holding AG), Torsten Mallée (AEB SE), Josip T. Tomasevic (Agco Corporation) and Prof. Thomas Wimmer. Frauke Heistermann (BEFESA S.A.) left the Board after her term in office had come to an end in line with the statutes and

was presented with the badge of honour in gold in recognition of her work.

The annual accounts for 2018 and the budget for 2019 were approved, as were the actions of the BVL Board and the accounts auditors. Accounts auditor Lutz Peper (Peper und Söhne GmbH) withdrew from his post after eight years in office, and Dr. Maik Speel (Lufthansa Technik Logistik Services GmbH) was elected as his successor, while Wolfgang Simonis (Metroplan Production Management GmbH) was re-elected as accounts auditor.

The BVL Board came together for four meetings in 2019 – in Berlin in March, Munich in June, Hamburg in September and Bonn in November. These meetings focused on the core content of BVL activities, strategic future development, the positioning of the association and progress in key operational projects.

*New faces on the Board: Tim Scharwath, Prof. Kai Furmans, Dr.-Ing. Christian Jacobi, Andreas Reutter and Stephan Wohler*



*Robert Blackburn presented the BVL badge of honour in gold to Frauke Heistermann, BVL Board member from 2007 to 2019.*

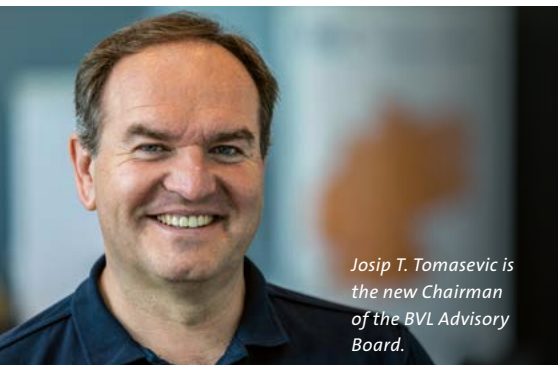




## Focus on Strategic Issues

*Intensive exchange of ideas between the Advisory Board members and the BVL Board*

The Advisory Board is appointed by the BVL Board and supports the latter in its work. The members of the Advisory Board are leading figures from the worlds of industry, academia and politics – the majority being company board members and managing directors who are directly responsible for logistics operations and who share the benefits of their personal networks and expertise.



*Josip T. Tomasevic is the new Chairman of the BVL Advisory Board.*

2019 was a year in which the baton was passed on at the head of the BVL Advisory Board. After serving as Chairman of this body for seven years, Prof. Karl Nowak (Bosch) handed over to Josip T. Tomasevic (Agco Corporation). Tomasevic is also a member of the BVL Board and active as Deputy Chair of the US Southeast Chapter. Nowak had already been presented with the BVL badge of honour in gold in 2018 for his outstanding efforts following a decision of the BVL Board. To mark the end of his term in office, he invited the 46 members of the BVL Advisory Board to Bosch’s Blaichach plant in Immenstadt/Allgäu on May 16, 2019. In his welcome speech, he emphasised the importance of the Advisory Board for BVL in defining a clear, shared strategic focus and providing stimuli and inspiration for the work of the association.

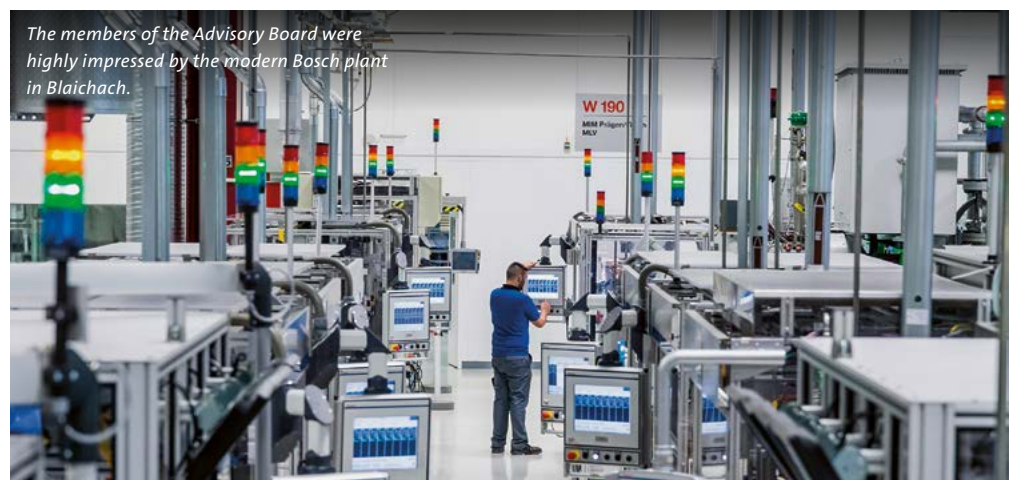
In his kick-off speech as host, Andreas Reutter, member of the Global Business Services/ Logistics Management Board at Bosch, talked

about digitalization and interconnection in supply chains. Two group tours through the production and assembly halls complete with the presentation of new concepts based on Industry 4.0 and the Internet of Things provided the guests with insights into how these topics are implemented at Bosch. The interconnection of production units and the corresponding logistics with IT activities and the digitalization of elements of the Bosch production system is already well advanced – with humans at the heart of the change process as the final decision-makers.

Following these insights into the operations of real-world companies, Dr. Thomas Hueck, Chief Economist at Bosch, outlined his assessment of the overall economic situation and pointed in his presentation entitled “Global Economy Facing Strong Headwinds” to potential threats but also arising opportunities. The answer to the 2008/2009 economic crisis was not protectionism, he said, but a common strategy

of nations. He believes this kind of response is unlikely at the current point in time and during the next two years – and that if, in the near future, we see not just a minor downturn but a global recession, the world economy would therefore only recover very slowly.

His presentation outlined numerous talking points for the ensuing discussions of the Advisory Board members focusing on concepts for digitalization and automation, new formats in the trading sector, cooperation and collaboration, the skill shortage, sustainability and decarbonisation. The Advisory Board recommended that the BVL Board put topics like infrastructure investment and construction site management right at the top of the agenda. The activities of the “Image of Logistics” focus group and the “Wirtschaftsmacher” initiative with its “Logistics Heroes” campaign attracted a great deal of interest – and the launch of BVL.digital was also positively received.



*The members of the Advisory Board were highly impressed by the modern Bosch plant in Blaichach.*

# The Board

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Minden

## Information

The names and functions of all other honorary officials of BVL can be found on the Internet: [www.bvl.de/en/association](http://www.bvl.de/en/association)

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