



Richard Grenell a Guest at the 35th International Supply Chain Conference

➔ **Guest of honour** Logistics is a globally active sector. The threat of trade barriers, tariffs or other obstacles all the way through to a “trade war” is a pressing issue of the highest order for logistics managers in industry, trade and logistics services. Richard Grenell, the Ambassador of the United States of America in Germany, will be a guest at the 35th International Supply Chain Conference taking place October 17 – 19 in Berlin. During the Gala on the evening of day one, he will take part in a dialogue with Frank Sportolari, CEO of UPS Deutschland, and Prof. Thomas Wimmer, Chairman of the Executive Board of BVL. Sportolari is a member of the BVL Advisory Board and was named President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany (AmCham) in April 2018. Richard Grenell was appointed Ambassador to Germany on May 8, 2018. The diplomat has

a Master’s degree in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and was the spokesperson for multiple US Ambassadors to the United Nations from 2001 to 2008. After his time at the UN, Grenell founded internationally active communication consultants Capitol Media Partners. In June 2018, following the premature departure of US President Donald Trump from the G7 Summit in Canada, Grenell adopted a moderate tone. In its June 11 issue, the “Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung” newspaper quoted him as saying: “I think both sides are interested in avoiding further conflict, but it takes time.” He said that negotiations between more than 20 countries required more coordination than bilateral relations. “I am optimistic that we can resolve our differences”, said Grenell. “We all know what’s at stake.”

➔ **The Updated Programme** The updated programme features numerous additional highlights – with 70 hours of sessions and events focusing on different topics in a variety of formats, all under the central theme “Digitalization Meets Reality”. There are keynotes, specialist sessions, LOG.Camps and

meet-ups, and they will all come together to ensure an exciting and diverse conference. The LOG.Letter international provides a brief overview, and the full programme can be [downloaded from our website](#) (and is also available in English).

BVL International – Selected Events in 2018/2019

Logistics Forum – CeMAT Asia 2018
November 6, 2018, Shanghai, China

Forum Automotive Logistics
February 5 – 6, 2019, Munich

Forum Spare Parts Logistics
April 4, 2019, Nuremberg

Supply Chain Day
April 11, 2019, international

EDITORIAL

As the summer comes to an end, it can only mean one thing, here at the BVL Office: the International Supply Chain Conference in Berlin is just around the corner! The third LOG.Letter



International of the year will provide you with the latest updates for the upcoming 35th International Supply Chain Conference, titled “Digitalization meets Reality”. The German capital plays host to the annual BVL conference for the thirty fifth year running. Join the BVL at the biggest cross-sector forum logistics and supply chain have to offer, where you can interact with more than 3000 professionals from logistics and SCM and be inspired by the many speakers who will be sharing their best practices from the sectors. Also, find out what happened when BVL President, Robert Blackburn, paid a visit to a BVL Network Young Professionals event in Munich this July. There is a special report on BVL member, Ritex Logistics, who invited the BVL to the opening of their new logistics centre in Legnica, Poland. Plus, we have all the latest news from the BVL International network, including the latest BVL Chapter events in Luxembourg, Poland, and Singapore, as well as a letter from BVL International Representative for South Africa, Günther Heyman, and a report on the BVL Office’s “Captain’s Day”, in Bremen. We look forward to meeting and welcoming conference guests in Berlin including members and followers from BVL’s international network. As always, we thank you for reading the LOG.Letter International and thank you for your continuous support.

Curtis Domberg
BVL Member Service
International Relations

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Digitalization Meets Reality – the Interplay of Logistics and IT



⇒ **Programme preview** The four core topics “Technologies”, “Methods”, “Markets” and “Science and Research” will be explored in different formats and will supply examples for the interplay of logistics and IT – in line with the overall theme “Digitalization Meets Reality”. Robert Blackburn, BVL President, sees the benefit of digitalization above all in its potential to solve problems. Inadequate digital infrastructure, the shortage of drivers, the lack of freight space and global political uncertainties pose major challenges for logistics managers in industry, trade and services. And numerous keynotes and specialist sessions at the conference will look at how we can use the tools provided by digitalization to address these real-world problems. Here are six of the core topics:

⇒ **Robotics and Autonomous Logistics**

Considered to be science fiction just a couple of decades ago, robotics is today one of the cornerstones of digitalization. Following significant technological advances, autonomous systems are already being used in some parts of the production process as well as to provide certain services. This session reports on the range of existing robotics applications from different perspectives and provides ideas for potential applications along the value added chain. The presentations will by no means be abstract but will also provide a hands-on experience. When Benjamin Federmann, Managing Director of doks.innovation GmbH in Kassel, talks about the “Automation of Inventory

and Master Data Recording Using Intelligent Sensors and Drones”, then he’ll naturally be bringing a drone with him. Other equipment on show includes autonomous stackers and driverless transport systems – and interaction on the part of attendees is more than welcome. In the session moderated by Frederik Brantner from Magazino GmbH, Prof. Matthias Scheutz from Tufts University in Medford, USA will also be speaking about why “Autonomous Robots Need Ethical Competence”.

⇒ **Collaborative Supply Chain** Collaboration is interconnected cooperation across company borders – but many companies still find it hard to imagine putting collaboration into practice, particularly when it comes to providing all the necessary data. Yet collaboration offers so many benefits to handle problems like empty runs or duplicated work processes. How do company executives need to change their mindset, what kind of solutions do neutral platforms need to offer in order to tap into unused efficiency potential, and what are the limits of collaboration?

⇒ **Artificial Intelligence** Thanks to rapid technological progress, artificial intelligence (AI) and its various sub-disciplines like machine learning, neuronal networks and deep learning are already being deployed in many areas of logistics. Intelligent algorithms are helping to make processes along the value added chains ever smarter and more effective. Concrete applications can already be found in fields like

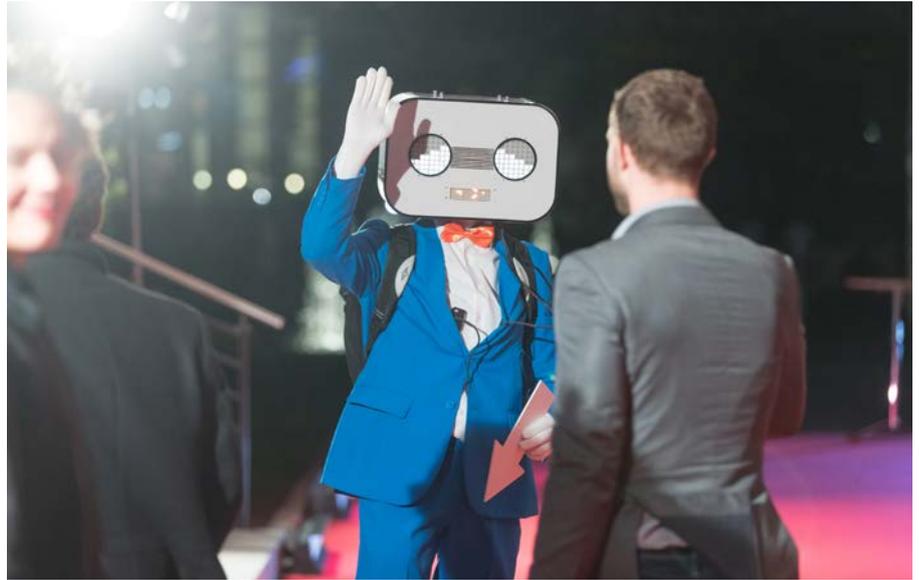
predictive analytics and risk management, where AI is fast becoming a “service partner” for decision-makers in today’s companies.

⇒ **Brave New Working World?** The customer and the end consumer are the focal points of logistics and the services it provides. At the same time, long-established, successful business models and working routines are being heavily scrutinised. How is digitalization changing the working world and what should up-to-date training programmes look like? The need to work digitally and to ensure agility is calling the skills of management personnel and employees into question. How can the existing workforces be used to successfully implement the requirements arising from the change process and the demands of new business models?

⇒ **Learning from Digital Projects** The challenge of digitising existing processes and developing digital business models has spawned a wide range of digital projects. The projects are not always successful, and the objective is not always immediately apparent. Agile development models enable companies to try out new concepts and are meanwhile part of the standard repertoire. There are many good examples of where trial and error has ultimately brought success. The conference showcases three such cases.

➔ **Pitch for start-ups** New ideas often come from new talents, particularly in the field of digitalization. Young entrepreneurs will be presenting their innovative concepts at the “Start-Ups in Logistics” LOG.Camp on Thursday from 9.30 to 11.30 am. And this is nothing if not an international session. The pitchers include Max Lock from Fleet Logistics Inc. in Portland, USA, Lukas Wrede from Skycart Inc. in San José, USA, and Frank van Os from Smart Mile Solution B.V. in Utrecht in the Netherlands. A further participant is the winner of the BVL Science Award for SCM 2016 – Dr.-Ing. Max Gath from XTL Kommunikationssysteme GmbH in Bremen.

➔ **Outdoor sessions** The various outdoor sessions on the Thursday of the conference will once again offer a change of gear from the keynotes and presentations. On the site of the Charité University Hospital in Berlin, the federal state of Berlin, the Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe (BVG) public transport provider and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin work hand in hand in the operation of self-driving buses, which the outdoor session participants



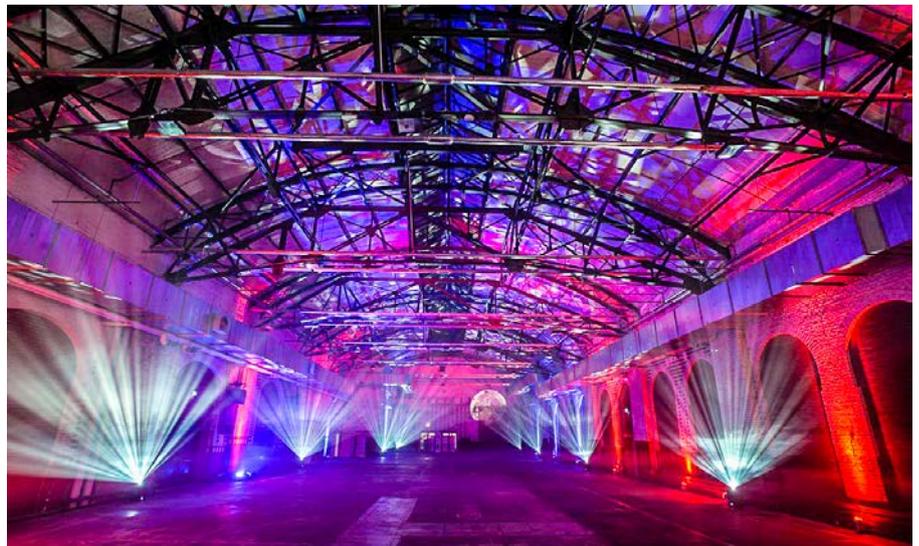
Robot “Steve Machine” already made for fun communication back at the 2017 conference.

can try out for themselves. At Berlin Airport, the focus is on the logistics infrastructure and processes necessary for the German Red Cross to provide smoothly operating emergency assistance. The pick-by-vision solution of Picavi will be on show at Klosterfrau Berlin. The long-standing company uses data glasses to supply

its production operations at its location in the suburb of Marienfelde to permit faster and error-minimised order picking. As always, the number of places is limited. You can register for the outdoor sessions on the Wednesday of the conference from 12.15 pm in the lobby of the Hotel InterContinental. [more ...](#)

A Very Special Celebration Full of Surprises

➔ **Gala Evening** 35 years of the conference and 40 years of BVL are certainly cause for celebration, and the occasion will be marked this year by a Gala Evening in a very special location. The STATION Berlin venue boasts historically preserved architecture as well as a storied past. Opened in 1875 as the “Dresdner Bahnhof” railway station, the site served as a postal station from 1907 onwards. During the separation of the two regions of Germany, the location also signalled the termination point for one of the most important links between West Berlin and the rest of West Germany. There are many big and small details that reflect the history of the location and make the STATION such an unusual venue – a venue with “logistics connections” and therefore the perfect setting in which to celebrate the history of BVL. Because much has also happened since the association was founded: still in its nascent phase back then as an independent discipline, logistics is today one of the core fields of expertise in the German economy and makes a key contribution to the success of industry and trade. In keeping with the theme “Digitalization Meets Reality”, BVL is celebrating in the here and now, and will present the



Exciting architecture: STATION Berlin

German Award for SCM to a new project of an exemplary nature during the Gala Evening. BVL is also looking into the past and taking attendees on a digital journey in time through the history of the association. Guests can experience the story of BVL in images, texts and sounds. There’s plenty to discover. There will also be some surprises. And – without giving too much away – there will be some interac-

tions. Because this is what makes BVL what it is today and is the reason why BVL can look back on 40 years – the constant commitment of its members, who regularly contribute their time and energy and who shape the history of BVL with their innovative ideas. So in this spirit:

Let’s have a party!

(ka)

International Breakfasts at the 35th International Supply Chain Conference

➔ **International Relations** BVL will once again stage two International Business Breakfast panel discussions during the second and third days of the 35th International Supply Chain Conference, in which BVL Chairpersons and Representatives will answer questions on the latest economical trends and developments affecting their regions. The “European Supply Chain” discussion will take a look into future perspectives of logistics and Supply Chain Management in Europe, where as the “Emerging Markets” discussion will offer a glimpse into how the label developing countries is becoming a thing of the past and how such countries are quickly entering new frontiers. BVL International Chairpersons and Representatives Enrico Nebuloni (Executive Partner, Click Reply), Prof. Wojciech Paprocki (Professor, Warsaw School of Economics), and Corine van der Slood (Director Sales & Marketing Education, Inchainge B.V.) share their views in the “European Supply Chain” discussion on Thursday, 18th October from 8:45 – 9:30, where as Bernd-Paul Koschate (Managing Director, 4flow Inc.), Andreas M. Radke (Procurement Director, Bayer S.E. Asia), and Kirill Vlasov (General Director, STS Logistics) will be taking part in the “Emerging Markets” discussion on Friday 18th October from 8:45 – 9:30. This year’s International Business Breakfasts panel discussions will be hosted and moderated by BVL Representative India/UAE Christian Herzog (Key Account Manager, Nippon Express Deutschland) and Curtis Domberg (International Relations, BVL Member Service). All 35th International Supply Chain Conference participants are welcome to attend the International Business Breakfasts in the BVL Lounge and to make most of meeting BVL Chapter Chairpersons and Representatives as well as to share ideas and views related to everyday business.



European Supply Chain Speakers (l to r):
Enrico Nebuloni, Wojciech Paprocki, Corine van der Slood



Emerging Market Speakers (l to r):
Bernd-Paul Koschate, Andreas Radke, Kirill Vlasov



Moderation (l to r): Curtis Domberg, Christian Herzog



Guests at one of last year’s International Business Breakfasts

Reports from the International Chapters and Representatives

Celebrating the Success of the Sino-German Logistics Forum

➔ **Shanghai** On 31st July and as part of the ALUROUT (the first Sino-German Alumni Network in logistics), the CDHK of Tongji University and the Fraunhofer Institute for Material Flow and Logistics in co-operation with the BVL Chapter China – Shanghai, organised the Sino-German Logistics Forum and the 1st ALUROUT Meeting, on trends and the use of state-of-the-art technologies in logistics. Leading logistics and SCM experts from both countries gave insights into their fields of work and research in order to foster the German-Chinese exchange of knowledge and encourage collaboration. Speakers included BVL Chapter China – Shanghai Chairperson, Prof. Dianjun Fang (Sino-German College of Tongji University), Prof. Michael Henke (Fraunhofer IML), and representatives from well-known Sino-German cooperative enterprises, such as Jungheinrich Forklift (Shanghai) Co. Ltd., who all delivered speeches to approximately 50 students from Sino-German College. Prof.

Dianjun Fang hosted the forum and gave a speech at the opening of the event, introducing the topics of the meeting. Prof. Michael Henke talked about “How to successfully manage the application of Industry 4.0 and the significance of industrial development to 2035”, describing the development prospects and understanding of Industry 4.0 in China, Germany, and even the rest of the world. Denis Daus, also from Fraunhofer IML, got students thinking as he talked about “The future of the smart supply chain and how we respond”. After a short break, two topics were put forward by Prof. Dianjun Fang: “China Manufacturing and Industry 4.0 in 2025” and “Sino-German Cooperation Experience” were discussed by the students who were divided into two groups to discuss and exchange their views on the future of logistics technology and industry 4.0. In the end, the students were able to learn from one another and from the experts’ views, with the young guests being able to take the



Prof. Fang (first left) with speakers from Jungheinrich and Fraunhofer IML during the Sino-German Logistics Forum

information that they gained back home with them. The Sino-German Logistics Forum and the 1st Alumni Meeting not only provided profound exchanges between academics and SCM specialists, but they also prove that the Sino-German relationship can aid companies in both countries. In the times of “Industry 4.0” and “Made in China 2025”, sustainable cooperation between Germany and China is a crucial factor for success

The Centre of Innovation in Supply Chain Management Opens its Doors to the BVL Chapter Singapore

➔ **Singapore** On 19th September, BVL members and followers, accompanied by BVL Chapter Singapore Chairperson, Andreas Radke, were able to gain a glimpse into the future of supply chain management during the visit to Republic Polytechnic’s Centre of Innovation in Supply Chain Management (COISCM), in Singapore. Founded by Dennis Quek, who came to Republic Polytechnic from the industry, the COISCM helps Singapore-based companies to develop and strengthen their supply chain and logistics capabilities through process innovation, technology enablement, and training. The organisation has a dual objective: on the one hand, education. The Diploma in Supply Chain Management revolves around building problem-solving skills with mandatory internships. On the other hand, research dissemination. It builds capability and scalability through innovation in processes and technology. The company has completed 350 projects for companies across multiple industries since 2012. During the presentations and demonstrations, Mr Quek covered multiple areas. A case study



Republic Polytechnic’s Centre of Innovation in Supply Chain Management (COISCM)

from the hospitality illustrated the transferability of operations management methodologies. The technology development was illustrated by the need to start with digitisation - moving from analogue to digital - before applying digitalisation - using digital technology to change a business model. Demonstrations of automation – both physical robots and software robots for robotic process automation (RPA) – gave guests an idea as to what upcoming productivity improvements there will be in the future. The presentations concluded with a yet to be solved development: what are the real life skills people need in the future? The World Economic Forum claims 65% of children entering primary school today will likely to work in jobs that do

not exist yet. The event closed with a tour of the COISCM facilities. In the Supply Chain Lab the COISCM team demonstrated how supply chains are familiar to every industry and are an inherent part of every business. Through the adoption of simple innovations, the Supply Chain Lab shed light on how companies can achieve greater efficiency and leaner manpower. The Productivity Lab, developed together with McKinsey, showcases technologies aimed at enabling lean manufacturing. The application-ready concepts and technology spurred the guests on to delve into intensive discussions with the hosts before the event came to a close.

Report by Andreas Radke

Advance Supply Chain International Conference 2018

➔ **Warsaw** On 20th September, BVL Chapter Poland staged the third Advance Supply Chain conference in co-operation with Polish publisher, Eurologistics. Over 200 participants including exhibitors and sponsors from more than 20 different companies attended this year's conference with managing directors, supply chain managers, and supply chain companies, being given the chance to meet other Polish and international representatives from other companies, sharing innovative ideas in a business environment. In absence of BVL Chapter Poland Chairperson, Jan Brachman (Seifert Polska), who couldn't attend this year's conference, Eurologistics' editor-in-chief, Adam Bluś opened and hosted the conference, encouraging guests to make the most of the conference by learning from the specialist key note presentations and through exchanging ideas and contacts with other participants. Curtis Domberg of the BVL Office in Bremen, Germany, welcomed guests on behalf of the BVL Chapter Poland and gave an introduction to BVL's set-up with a strong emphasis on the local Polish BVL Chairpersons' efforts throughout the years. Also visiting the conference from Bremen, Thomas Zink, DAV (The German Foreign Trade and Commerce Academy), who in his presentation informed how SMEs can make the most of digitalization and form niches in their markets. Conference guests were given an insight to 4flow's joint smart logistics project with AGCO, thanks to 4flow's Planning and Trans-



Advance Supply Chain 2018

port Optimisation Leader, Maria Samuel: the joint project won both companies BVL's 2016 German Logistics Award as well as European Logistics Association's Award for project of the year, in 2017. BVL Chapter Poland Vice Chairperson and Warsaw School of Economics Professor, Prof. Wojciech Paprocki, put the relationship between man and machine into question analysing how humans and robots in the industry will work together in the years to come. Representatives of local and international companies in Poland such as FM Logistic, Vive Transport, Interlan, Comp Win, and Miebach Consulting, also gave key-notes

and good advice on what factors small(er) companies should take into account when creating added value for businesses and customers through the use of digitalisation. Jointly organised by Eurologistics and BVL Chapter Poland, the Advance Supply Chain Conference has now taken place for the third year running, with the first taking place in Katowice in 2016, and the previous two meetings in Warsaw, attracting key players from the BVL and Eurologistics networks.

Report by Curtis Domberg

[more ...](#)

Visit to Luxtram: a New Mobility Concept for Luxembourg

➔ **Luxembourg** Logistics and mobility are two sides of the same coin: this proved to be the case at the latest BVL Chapter Luxembourg event which was dedicated to the new tram service in Luxembourg-City. A delegation of BVL and Cluster for Logistics members and followers joined the visit to public transport operator, Luxtram, on 20th September. After a welcoming and reception by BVL Chapter Luxembourg Chairperson, Malik Zeniti, and Luxtram Communication director, Françoise Frieden, the visitors were treated to a tour of the facilities, as well as an overview of the logistical challenges of transporting the trams over 1500 km from the manufacturer in Seville, to their final destination in Luxembourg. Project logistics



Visitors were offered a sneak peek in the Luxtram hangar

is an important subject for the 17 guests from Luxembourg and Germany who took part in the visit. According to Ms. Frieden, the new tram service is a prestigious project for Luxembourg, destined to enhance mobility in

an area prone to congestion. The tram service has been running since December 2017 and the network is only partially complete. Lux-tram will cover a distance of 16km by 2021, reshaping the way commuters will move

around the city. Moreover, the new mobility concept could also enhance the city logistics as well.

Report by Malik Zeniti

“Don’t Work in Jobs you Don’t Enjoy!”



Robert Blackburn talking on equal terms with young logistics managers.

➔ **Young Professionals** “The way to the top in big companies and the role of logistics in shaping the future” was the theme of the fireside chat held by the Young Professionals in Munich in mid-July. The event was hosted by Steffen Overath, Team Leader at Jones Lang LaSalle SE. Jan-Ferdinand Lühmann, who organised the event in his capacity of honorary chair in the Young Professionals network, welcomed Robert Blackburn, BVL President. “I’m Robert”, Blackburn told the attendees and asked to use first names. His first question was: “Do you all want to lead?”. He told the participants about his own experiences, and said that the key skills of a management executive are talent and a high level of

intuition. He emphasised that you have to like people and be interested in them – and that being a good listener is just as important for successful managers. When asked by one of the attendees how to recognise leadership qualities, Blackburn said that weak managers mainly take credit for the efforts of others (the achievements of their own team members, for example) and rarely tolerate strong personalities in their teams. When asked by another participant how he himself dealt with mistakes, Blackburn explained that the most important thing was not to try to hide them. “The Germans have an excellent saying – ‘Lies have short legs’ – and there’s some truth in that” Blackburn added with a grin. He told

the young professionals that it harms the company when mistakes are hushed up, and that it’s important not to repeat the same mistake, certainly not multiple times. Blackburn’s advice: “Don’t work in jobs you don’t enjoy!” With regard to the biggest challenges facing logistics, Blackburn turned his attention to the problem of infrastructure. “It’s astounding how often we see a lack of physical and digital infrastructure”, said Blackburn, commenting that mobile phone reception is better and more stable in some parts of Africa and Asia than it is around major German cities like Stuttgart.

Captain’s Day 2018

➔ **BVL’s Honorary Network** As per tradition, the BVL invites newly elected German-speaking Regional and International Chapter Chairpersons and BVL Research Counsellors to the Head Office in Bremen every two years. This year and for the very first time, BVL Network Young Professionals representatives were also invited to take part in the bi-annual gathering. On Friday, 21st September, 2018, BVL Office’s Member of the Executive Board, Uwe Peters, and Head of Member Service, Katja Wiedemann, welcomed the honorary BVL guests to the BVL Office. Amongst this

year’s guests was BVL Chapter Luxembourg Vice Chairperson, Christian Wilhelm (CEO, Clear Logistics SARL), who was elected in 2017. After a visit to the various BVL Office departments, during which the respective colleagues briefly introduced themselves to the guests, the voluntary group took part in a workshop. After a short introductory round, Uwe Peters gave an overview of the association, in terms of its structure, members, and activities. Susanne Großkopf-Nehls introduced guests to the Content | Knowledge | Research department, with an emphasis

on BVL’s Research Council work. Afterwards, Katja Wiedemann presented the Regional and International Chapters’ activity along with that of the Network Young Professionals. The BVL network, above all, relies upon all the Regional and International Chapters, and in particular, events organised by the honorary BVL Officials. These events are a meeting place for logistics enthusiasts, where they can make new contacts and exchange innovative ideas. By means of the more than 300 events organised worldwide on a yearly basis, the BVL reaches out to more than 8,000 par-

ticipants each year, winning most of its new members thanks to this activity. Following the meeting, the guests were treated to the titular Captain's Day evening, for a traditional sailor dinner's in the Tafelhaus Tritonia, located near the BVL Office. Thoughts and reflections on the day's visit were shared over rice and curry in a cosy atmosphere. On Saturday, the group took part in the Bremen tour of its "Underworlds", which gave a different and exciting perspective on the city, as most participants had pointed out. Around noon, it was time for the guests to say farewell, with the consolation that most of them will see each other again in October during the 35th International Supply Chain Conference in Berlin.



Uwe Peters (last row right) and Katja Wiedemann (first row, second from right) with participants of the 2018 Captain's Day at the BVL Office

Report by Katja Wiedemann

Letter from...

... BVL Representative of South Africa, Günther Heyman



BVL International Representative for South Africa, Günther Heyman

The South African market has been challenging and the last 2 years have been very tough for the country.

➔ Political Instability, Market Uncertainty

At the end of 2017 the ruling party, the ANC, voted in new President Ramaphosa.

This allowed the party to replace President Zuma. Zuma has been in the centre of numerous corruption scandals and links to the controversial Gupta brothers and what is now known as the "state capture". However, support for Zuma is still significant and factions loyal to him are still in the main structure of the party. With big divisions in the main political party, there is also uncertainty about the direction in which it is heading. At the ANC December conference, it adopted a policy of land/property expropriation without compensation, and has started a process to investigate if the constitution of the land which has to be changed. Such a move has sent ripples through the international community and foreign investor sentiments.

After Ramaphosa's election, there was a real euphoria of hope for change and it was even dubbed: "Ramaphoria". However, this "Ramaphoria" is dwindling fast as he has not been able to affect changes to jump-start the economy again. The country's GDP actually contracted 2.2% in the first quarter of 2018 and currently the unemployment for the country is at 27.2% and youth unemployment at a staggering 53.7%.

➔ **Not all doom and gloom..** South Africa has joined more than 50 other African states

in signing the AfCTFA (African Continental Free Trade Area) agreement. This agreement sets out to facilitate a single market for the trade in goods and services in Africa. This comes at a good time for the continent as the trade war is heating up and new intra Africa markets could be opening up. Currently the intra-Africa trade is only at 10% compared to 30 to 40% of other free trade areas, such as intra-Europe and intra-North America. (IOL Business Report, 02 Jul 2018). South Africa does have the biggest economy in Africa and should be the springboard to trade in Africa. There is an all time high in GDP from Transport Sector: even though the current overall GDP is contracting, it seems that the transport sector is growing in terms of value for the country. For South Africa, this indicates mixed fortunes as GDP from manufacturing, agriculture and mining are declining, meaning that the country is becoming more and more dependent on its imports.

➔ **Elections** The 2019 national elections take place soon; the country and its politics are delicately poised. If the leadership can unite the country with clear stance on the economy and its direction, then the economy should kick-start again.

Ritex Logistics New Logistics Centre Opening Ceremony



Curtis Domberg together with distinguished guests at the Ritex opening ceremony

➔ **Legnica** After three years of planning and constructing, BVL International Member and logistics service provider, PHU Ritex, opened its doors to 200 Polish and international guests who came together on September 11th for the grand opening of the company's new modern logistics centre in the relatively young Legnica Special Economic Zone, located in south-western Poland, in the Lower Silesia Province of the country. Ritex Group President, Waldemar Michalowski got the long awaited opening underway welcoming guests and companies who attended the event. Local government officials and distinguished guests who also attended the grand opening included the City of Legnica President, Krzysztof Duszkiewicz, as well as the Mayor of Legnica, Adam Babuska, who both stated just how important the new logistics centre and the logistics sector are for the region. BVL was lucky enough to receive an invitation to the opening ceremony with Curtis Domberg delivering a speech and introducing guests to the BVL's structure as

well as membership benefits and insights to the BVL International network, in particular with the Chapter in Poland. Ritex has been a BVL member since 2015, with its General Manager, Arkadiusz Zurek, becoming more involved with the BVL Chapter in Poland and even delivering a keynote at 2017's Advance Supply Chain Conference in Warsaw. Mr. Zurek who also hosted and moderated the opening ceremony stated how important it is for companies share their best practice in logistics and how the BVL creates a platform for its members to do this. For the ribbon-cutting session, a drone was flown in to deliver the ribbon on stage. Perhaps a fitting gesture seeing as how Ritex aims to have drones run its daily logistics processes in the new logistics centre within the next few years. The opening ceremony received the blessing of a local parish priest and also attracted local media station Dami TV Legnica who also reported on the event's highlights on [YouTube](#).
 Report by Curtis Domberg

IMPRINT

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