

## Newsletter #1 from Podcar City Berlin



### PODCAR CITY AT WORLD'S LARGEST RAIL AND METRO EVENT 2012!

*Innotrans* is where the world rail and metro industries come together every other year. The venue is always Berlin Messe. Over 100,000 registrants are expected this month -- this time for the first time with a bright Podcar presence.

With an active world rail market, *Innotrans* this year will be big stretching from September 18-21. Strategically placed inside that timeframe will be **PCC6** – the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Podcar City conference, September 19-20.

Although not apparent in the US, the world rail industry is booming. New metros are proliferating in China, India, and Latin America. Large chunks of existing infrastructure are being moved into the cyber age. Saudi Arabia and Persian Gulf states are planning and building whole networks from scratch. Dubai has set the smart way.

#### Podcar Event Specifics

**PCC6** will have a booth at *Innotrans*. The Icebreaker is September 19 followed by an intense one-day program ending with a formal dinner. Keynotes and announcements from both the public and private sectors will set the tone for advanced transit prospects and markets as 2012 draws to a close. Registration is €550 (~\$700). To see the program and participate, visit [www.podcarcity.org](http://www.podcarcity.org).

The program is half American: nine speakers – Seven Swedes and three other Europeans fill out the program of speakers and panellists. It is an even 10:10 trans-Atlantic balance. Perhaps more importantly, there is also a balance between public and private sectors with venture capitalists adding to the synergy.

After opening remarks, operating experiences at Morgantown and three recent projects will be reviewed. Four breakout sessions will deal with new podcar technologies, plans (Amritsar, San Jose, Uppsala), energy and expanding services. With that global overview, discussions will turn to investment matters – how to strengthen them, how they interface with real estate markets.



*Siemens promotional for Innotrans*



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Designs from 2010-2012  
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Rod Diridon: Podcars and High Speed Rail  
Program & Speakers

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Left: The Golden Temple  
Above: Proposed Pod  
Design for Amritsar PRT  
System

## INDIA AWAKENING – Impressive developments

The Podcar Industry has its main development focus right now – in India. Since the first information came out a few years ago about the Amritsar project, the development have been impressive. Just a few picks from the latest news this Year:

Today at least 19 different studies have been initiated in India over the last two years – Amritsar project underway – Trivandrum are considering a similar development – ULTra PRT and Fairwood planning a PRT Factory in India – Several major consultant and industry companies considering development of competing technology ..and much more...

So, what does this mean for the PRT Industry? In short term It will likely be a lot of activities, but most of them in the background. The real effect will be seen long term when (and if) this technology proves to be as efficient and safe as we hope for. The issue of getting enough ridership is not something India planners worries too much about. Any transit system offered to the public will almost immediately be full – or even more likely – not be able to meet the demand. In the mean time we salute Mr Martin Lawson, the man behind ULTra PRT to these achievements.



Martin Lawson, the man  
behind Ultra PRT, with an  
Interior photo above

**Facts:** The system will consist of 200 automated electric pods, roughly 10 times the number operating at Heathrow, and would shuttle an average of 100,000 passengers per day over 3.3 kilometers, or roughly two miles, of track. Among the route's seven station stops would be the city's principal bus station, the railroad terminal and the Golden Temple, a major Sikh shrine.

## **So, why are we having a Podcar Conference?**

Well, let's ask ourselves a few questions more:

*Has mankind reached its full potential in transportation innovation and is what we have today in urban design and transit solutions the ultimate technology?*

*Should we focus on incremental change, and optimize what we have instead of looking into new ideas?*

We who come to Podcar City Berlin don't think so. We believe that the modern concept of automated, energy effective, safe, fun and very accessible transportation is something that is not only a great idea – it is definitely also doable. Most of the technology exists, and today we have three full systems running in the world with a great track record – and many more are being planned.

However- there is a huge room for improvements and expanding our horizons. We need general control systems, different design options, station optimization, routing systems, address the visual impact issues, safety concerns, educating the public, visualization systems, connect academic research to industrial development, regulations, stronger political support and approval of systems and much more.

The Podcar City Conference is about people who believe that the transportation systems of tomorrow are way better than today's inefficient and dangerous technology, and that by having an open discussion on the issues at hand we can energize ourselves and the people around us.

**Welcome to Podcar City 2012!**



Christer Lindstrom and Magnus Hunhammar

INIST / IST

[www.podcar.org](http://www.podcar.org)

## **AGT\*: An Important Link for Mobility and Climate Change Solutions**

The United States became industrialized with an abundance of natural resources scattered across great distances. In the 1860s, President Lincoln initiated a vast private railroad system, which was followed by President Eisenhower's even more extensive interstate highway network beginning in the 1950s. Both were remarkable feats, but they were carbon-intensive.

With strong leadership from President Obama and governors such as California's Jerry Brown, the U.S. is now moving toward electric-power, including America's 13 new high speed rail (HSR) corridors. President Obama catalyzed this movement by approving US\$11 billion for HSR and has proposed US\$50 billion more.



But HSR requires comprehensive mass-transit feeder systems relying more on electric buses and lighter rail. The dramatic upsurge in electric cars is a hopeful sign, although seriously overcrowded highways don't have the capacity for single-passenger vehicles to serve rapidly growing metro areas.

Core redistribution around HSR stations must include automated guideway transit (AGT), such as Podcars, which move people to nearby employment, universities, and other destinations. A seamless interconnection with air terminals is mandatory.

Electrically powered AGT should be considered for every major rail station around the world. AGT is an important link in the mobility and climate change solution.

*Rod Diridon, Sr. Executive Director, Mineta Transportation Institute and Chair Emeritus California High Speed Rail Authority Board in the United States*

\*AGT: Automated Guideway Transit

# IMAGES OF PODCAR



*The last years has seen a remarkable expansion in ideas, concepts and design for Podcar technology. We show here a few samples of the last two years concepts and designs for implementation. Above; Vectus vehicle for Suncheon. Top Right: 2Getthere vehicle for Masdar, UAE. Lower right: Custom interior for ULTra PRT and in Yellow, the Amritsar Concept.*

# DEVELOPMENT 2012



## Program

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Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September - Innotrans Booth for our Innotrans visitors

### Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September

#### 16.00 Icebreaking – Opening Reception

- 18.00 *Floating Lounge on Spree near East Side Gallery*  
Mühlenstrasse 6, 10243 Berlin  
[www.floatinglounge-berlin.com](http://www.floatinglounge-berlin.com)



East Side Gallery:  
a remaining part of the Berlin Wall

### Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September

8.00 Registration at *Technische Universität*  
*Lecture Hall H1012*

TU Berlin, Strasse des 17 Juni 135  
10623 Berlin  
[www.tu-berlin.de](http://www.tu-berlin.de)



9.00 *Plenary Chamber:*  
Theme: **Urbanization, Regional City Centers and Sustainable Transportation**

#### **Welcoming Remarks from:**

Magnus Hunhammar, CEO Institute for Sustainable Transportation, (SE)  
Hans Lindqvist, Chairman of KOMPASS & County Councilman Stockholm &  
former member of European Parliament (SE)

#### **Opening Remarks from:**

Rod Diridon, Honorary Chairman of California High Speed Rail Authority &  
Executive Director, Mineta Transportation Institute (US) -

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*High speed rail: Connected!*

### **Experience from Podcars in Current Operations and Implementations:**

John Hammersley, Bid Manager, Ultra Global PRT (UK) – *Operating experience and passenger reactions for Heathrow PRT*

Robbert Lohmann, Commercial Director, 2GetThere (NL) – *2 years of operations of Masdar City, Abu Dhabi: status and lessons learned*

David D. Little, Principal Washington Office, Lea+Elliott (US) – *Upgrading the Podcar system in Morgantown West Virginia*

Suncheon, Vectus PRT tbc

**10.30** Exhibition Hall: **Networking break**

**11.00** *Break-out session A1:*

#### **Theme: Plans for Podcars in Built Environments**

Tom Karlsson, Transportation & Park Director City of Uppsala (SE) – *Plans to connect university hospital, science park and commuter train by Podcars*

Hans Larsen, Transportation Director City of San José, California (US) -

John Hammersley, Bid Manager, Ultra Global PRT (UK) – *Progress and plans for ULTra PRT in Amritsar, India*

**11.00** *Break-out session B1:*

#### **Theme: New Sustainable Transport Solutions**

Skytran, Jerry Sanders, (US)

Beamways, Bengt Gutafsson (SE)

**12.30** Exhibition Hall: **Networking break**

*Lunch at Venue*

**13.30** *Break-out session A2:*

#### **Theme: Transition for Sustainable Energy**

N.N. Germany Breaks World Record in Solar Energy

Ron Swenson, (US) - *Photovoltaic for Podcars – Clean Tech Dream?*

**13.30** *Break-out session B2:*

#### **Theme: Expand the Use of Podcars/PRT**

Nathan Koren, Capita Symonds (UK) - freight pods

Jörg Schweitzer, Professor Bologna University (IT) – *PRT mode share estimations in western and eastern European cities*

Ingmar Andréasson, vice President ATRA (SE) – *Supplementing Mass Transit with Podcars,*

Alain Kornhauser, Professor Princeton University & Chairman ATRA (US) –

*Near-term Examples to Increase Land Values and Revitalize Urban Areas Using Podcars*

**15.00** Exhibition Hall: **Networking break**



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**15.30** *Plenary Chamber:*  
*Theme: **Strengthening the Investment***

Panel Discussion 1

*Theme: **Strengthening the Investment of Podcars by Standards?***

*Moderator:* David D. Little, Lea+Elliott, (US)

*Panelists:*

- Eugene Nishinaga, Director, Transit Control Systems, (US)
- Bo Olsson, Research Director, Agency of Transportation, (SE)
- Robbert Lohmann, Marketing & Sales, 2GetThere, (NL)
- Lars Anger, Project Manager, Innovatum, (SE)

Panel Discussion 2:

*Theme: **Can Podcars strengthen the investments of the build environment, the existing railroads or airports?***

*Panelists:*

- Alain Kornhauser, Prof. Princeton University & Chairman ATRA (US)
- Stefan Hanna, (SE)
- Matthew Lesh, Office of Mobility Innovation at Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation (US)
- Ewa Lofvar Konradsson, vice Chairman KOMPASS (SE)

- **Closing remarks**

**17.00** **End**

Some of our Speakers and Attendees at Podcar City 2012



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### Agenda: Podcar City Conference (PCC), 19-20 september 2012, Berlin

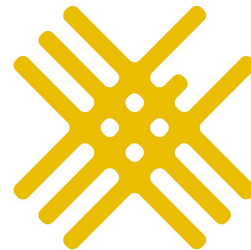
	Tuesday 18/9	Wednesday 19/9	Thursday 20/9		Friday 21/9
08:00	InnoTrans	InnoTrans	PCC		InnoTrans
08:30			Venue: Technische Universität Berlin	Corridor expos	
09:00			REGISTRATION & COFFEE	E E	
09:30	Messe Berlin	Messe Berlin	Official opening	Plenary X X	Messe Berlin
10:00			IST / ATRA	P P	
10:30			COFFEE	O O	
11:00			A1	1 2	
11:30			B1	P P	
12:00				O O	
12:30			LUNCH at expo corridor	D D	
13:00				C C	
13:30			A2	A A	
14:00			B2	R R	
14:30			presentations	V T	
15:00			COFFEE	E O	
15:30				N W	
16:00			Plenary	D N	
16:30		PCC: Icebreaking reception		E S	
17:00		East Side Gallery		R S	
17:30					
18:00					
18:30					
19:00					
19:30			PCC: Conference dinner		
20:00			Menza, TU Berlin		

## Innotrans Fair presence September 18-21

IST is hosting a display of technologies and information about Podcars at a booth at the Innotrans Fair in ICC Berlin (Berlin Messe). For attending the fair you need a ticket (35 Euro for one day, 50 Euro for all four days). The IST booth will display the Uppsala Podcar project using Encitra technology, the Beamways concept and control systems from Gene Nishinaga.

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**Partners and Exhibitors:**



**BEAMWAYS**



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**Host and Co-host:**

