

PRESS RELEASE – English Translation

Especially customer-friendly: HKX receives 2015 Rail Transport Award

(Cologne, 2 October 2015) Today Hamburg-Köln-Express GmbH (HKX) received the **2015 Rail Transport Award of the German Rail-Customer Association**. The private-sector company, which since 23 July 2012 has been supplying an inexpensive option for passenger rail journeys between Cologne and Hamburg, received the association's award in the *Rail* category for "**its outstanding commitment to supply customer-friendly services.**" The award was presented in the Berlin "S-Bahn Museum" (suburban train museum) in Potsdam during a special ceremony in the context of the "32nd German Rail-Transport Weeks."

"We are very happy to have received this award," says Carsten Carstensen, managing director of HKX, "particularly as it has been awarded by a renowned association of rail-customers. After all, HKX has always made its customers the center of its endeavors. For us, inexpensive fares, simple booking procedures and good services during the journey are of paramount importance, and receiving the 2015 Rail Transport Award in the *Rail* category is official proof of this fact."

"Despite the unfavorable basic conditions in comparison to coaches and airplanes, HKX has in an outstanding way managed to continuously develop its customer-friendly supply of its services," said Gerhard J. Curth, president of DBV (German Rail-Customer Association). "High fees for train-path utilization make it particularly difficult to establish rail connections which are economically viable, and thus, these fees make it ultimately impossible to increase the share of the resource-saving rail transport in the passenger transport market."

The annual German Rail Transport Award is presented by the DBV (German Rail-Customer Association) for valuable efforts to supply customer-friendly services in rail transport in such categories as: *Citizens and Associations, Politics, Europe, Innovation, Culture, Media, Marketing, and Short-Distance Transport.*

In the past, this award has been presented to Prignitz Railway in 1999, Connex in 2005, and Vogtland Railway in 2006.

About HXX:

HKX trains operate between Cologne and Hamburg with stops at the main stations of Düsseldorf, Duisburg, Essen, Gelsenkirchen, Münster and Osnabrück, at Hamburg- Harburg, Hamburg main station and Hamburg-Altona. The journey takes a little more than four hours. The majority shareholder of HXX GmbH is Railroad Development Corporation-Deutschland (RDC-D).



HKX Head of Corp. Communication Ms. Renate Bader accepting award on behalf of HKX from DBV President Mr. Gerhard Curth.

HKX-tickets cost from €18 for the entire trip. They can be purchased on the internet at www.HKX.de, at the ticket outlets of KVB (Cologne Transport Service), "Rheinbahn", "Stadtwerke Bonn", "metronom" and "trans regio" as well as "NordWestBahn" and at a growing number of travel agencies along the route. HKX tickets can also be purchased by telephone at the HKX ServiceCenter (tel: 0180-6459459 between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. at a cost of .20 euro from the German ground net or a maximum of .60 euro from the German mobile network) or on board HKX trains from service personnel.

Since 1 February 2015 HKX has also been accepting all DB (German Railways) tickets, in particular also short-distance tickets including "Happy Weekend Tickets" and "Right-Across-The Country Tickets". This makes HKX especially appealing for travellers who wish to travel onward from Hamburg to Kiel, for instance from Flensburg to Bonn, Koblenz or Trier, or from Cologne to Sylt or Kiel. With only one ticket, bought at one of the ticket outlets of DB, you can travel using inexpensive short-distance rail fares and still reach your destination in a short time.

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