

31st Zurich Logistics Colloquium: The value of logistics

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Dr Peter Acél once more captivated his audience with his choice of subjects at the 31st Zurich Logistics Colloquium, which was held in collaboration with ETH Zurich. His company Dr Acél & Partner presented a number of exclusive and exciting logistics projects. The message, for the steel industry as much as for a power station, is that staff solve problems and optimise solutions.

On 3 June three managers from leading Swiss companies inspired a fascinated audience with presentations of their logistics solutions.

Roger Wey, logistics manager with the Spaeter Group Switzerland, decide to present his corporation's central warehouse, where steel is stored in 3,139 cassettes. We said that «we've acquired modern machinery with a high degree of automation for the facility.» The material is fed to the cutting plant and the packing machine under computer control, and from there to a loading station, according to its transport route. It is then carried by truck to its regional customers – or on swap trailers to two external facilities, where it is taken over for distribution by a local delivery service.



Dr Peter Acél with speakers **Vinko Castrogiovanni**, **Peter Seger** and **Roger Wey** (from the right).

Outsource logistics – yes or no?

Vinko Castrogiovanni of the firm Fiege Logistik reported on a logistics outsourcing project carried out by the Loeb department store in Bern. The firm is aware that logistics are a factor for success, but it recognises that this is not its core expertise. Different points of sale have to be supplied and at the same time the binding of capital and stock has to be reduced. «Order picking according to department simplifies the procedure, for the goods are then also delivered in a way that is most appropriate to the individual department,» Castrogiovanni reported. An unusual

solution has been adopted. «The staff work by pick-by-voice and pick-by-scan, in which connection some work more efficiently with one system and others with another.»

A power station in the mountain

Peter Seger, the CEO of DTE Engineering, is also working on an exceptional project. He is building a geothermal power station inside a mountain. Shafts are being drilled to a depth of 10,000 m, where temperatures exceed 300°C. Water will be pumped down in closed pipes and in the form of superheated steam will drive a turbine. «A project inside a mountain makes extremely exacting demands on logistics,» said Seger. Because of the difficult access and the restricted space, nothing short of perfection is acceptable. «Everything has to be in the right place at the right time, including 1,200 9 m drill rods, which have to be brought to the drilling site and put into action there.»