

TRIP REPORT – DRAFT 2

To : Nigel Barnett, Carl Storz, Telecom Ecole de Management

From : Charles MOREAU, FA13 Telecom Lille 1

Date : 26/03/2011

Subject : Trip report of our BMW plant industrial visit in Leipzig in November 2010.

Summary

The main purpose of our trip to Leipzig was to enhance exchanges between Telecom Lille 1 and HTFL school (Hochschule für Telekommunikation Leipzig).

During this travel, we had the opportunity of amazing visits such as St Thomas Church with J.S.Bach's grave, Leipzig opera with its particular acoustics. But, the most relevant visit was the Carmaker BMW manufacturing plant, that kept our main attention.

Model Buildings

In our current school activity, we work on computer networks systems, from a theoretical point of view. A visit to a plant illustrates the required skills which are necessary to be a good engineer, and to be able to bring a personal contribution to an industry.

Meeting with BMW Plant

We entered the BMW factory shop located in Leipzig industrial zone. This plant produces the Serie 1 cars for a world wide market. The serie 1 model includes : sedan, coupe, convertible and crossover (X1). We noticed that this plant offers one production train only, but it can be used for other models, such as Serie 3, Serie 5, and so forth.

Entering the plant, we discovered modern installations and design, based on optimum productive and logistical layout. There is a main shop for auto bodies constructions, painting and drying area, and a final assembly hall. The organization and the technology appeared to us to be the role model of this industry.

Conclusion and recommendations

We felt that proprietary information practices were present during this visit, as a result, we didn't see all the plant details and workshop. This was a little bit frustrating.

In spite of this, the trip was very successful, because we discovered an industrial environment that we didn't imagine like this.

The main thing we learnt was that this plant requires many management systems, in order to achieve the quality objectives and costs in a competitive environment. The computer information systems we quickly saw, that are based on networks, clearly appeared to be a key success factor.

In case of a future visit, for a better understanding of this information system network process, we should need a longer visit of the entire system, including the motor, gearbox, transmission and dashboard shops that was missing from our plant visit.