



BPW Head of IT and Digitalisation Roman Rapoport at the Wiehler Forum

Nov 29, 2019 12:00 CET

BPW is becoming increasingly involved in the digital platform economy

- **BPW aims to network with digital players in the transport and logistics sector**
- **Development of new business models planned together with partners**
- **Online telematics marketplace "telematics24.de" presented as agile prototype**

Wiehl, 29/11/2019 --- The BPW Group has already successfully established digital platforms and business models with the European market leader for

trailer telematics, idem telematics, and webshop specialist and spare parts data aggregator PE Data. In future, the company intends to be even more adaptable when it comes to developing and implementing new digital ideas, as BPW Head of IT and Digitalisation Roman Rapoport demonstrated at the Wiehler Forum using telematics24.de as a project example.

Digitalisation is changing the DNA of companies: one example of this development is the BPW Group, which in just a few years transformed itself from a traditional firm in the commercial vehicle industry to an innovation leader of Industry 4.0. The most recent example are trailer [running gears, generated as "digital twins"](#) on the computer and accompanied by digitally networked services from production and assembly up to maintenance and spare parts service across nearly their entire lifecycle. The phrase "born digital" also applies to [big data and webshop concepts](#), such as those realised by BPW Group member company PE Data: commercial vehicle service stations can easily identify spare parts via scanning with a smartphone, and then ordering with just one click. Taking this even further is the BPW Aftermarket Group, which brings to the table a [completely digitalised spare parts warehouse](#) in the form of an overseas shipping container: the only thing that employees have to do now is pick out the parts they need – these are recorded, invoiced and re-ordered completely automatically. A core component of BPW's digital strategy is system openness: the collaboration with platforms, software and hardware from a wide range of providers has also transformed the telematics subsidiary, [idem telematics](#), into the European market leader for networking vehicles, freight and drivers.

Companies can only stay successful if they not only digitise and network their business models, but also permanently develop them further, Roman Rapoport reminded the audience at the Wiehler Forum. Boldness and the desire for change are the decisive success factors in digitisation, according to Rapoport. This ongoing change also always requires a [change in corporate culture](#): an agile mindset, more personal responsibility and creative freedom for employees and a trust-based form of collaboration with partners are some of the most important ingredients in this regard.

The BPW Group is looking to open up more to digital players and platform operators in the future. Therefore, idem telematics has successfully partnered with Daimler Fleetboard and RIO as well as Schmitz Cargobull in recent years. However, it also depends on pace, says Rapoport: new platform ideas

don't need to be launched to perfection, but can be implemented more quickly as prototypes and then intelligently further developed, taking new findings into account. He cited the new online marketplace telematics24.de as a project example. The platform is already online and is expected to develop into a cross-brand marketplace for telematics products and services in 2020. The goal is to depict product diversity to forwarders and vehicle manufacturers in a transparent and simple manner. That, too, is what BPW understands system openness to mean, says Rapoport.

About BPW Bergische Achsen Kommanditgesellschaft

BPW Bergische Achsen Kommanditgesellschaft is the parent company of the BPW Group. With over 1,600 employees, including around 120 trainees, the family-owned company has been developing and producing complete running gear systems for truck trailers and semi-trailers at its headquarters in Wiehl since 1898. BPW's technologies include axle systems, brake technology, suspension and bearings. BPW's trailer axles and running gear systems are in use in millions of vehicles around the world. An extensive range of services also offers vehicle manufacturers and operators the ability to increase the efficiency of their production and transport processes. www.bpw.de/en

About the BPW Group

The BPW Group researches, develops and manufactures everything needed to ensure that transport keeps moving and is safe, illuminated, intelligent and digitally connected. With its brands [BPW](https://www.bpw.de/en), [Ermax](https://www.ermax.com), [HBN](https://www.hbn.com), [HESTAL](https://www.hestal.com) and [idem telematics](https://www.idemtelematics.com), the company group is a preferred system partner of the commercial vehicle industry around the globe for running gear, brakes, lighting, fasteners and superstructure technology, telematics and other key components for trucks, trailers and buses. The BPW Group offers comprehensive mobility services for transport businesses, ranging from a global service network to spare parts supply and intelligent networking of vehicles, drivers and freight. The owner-operated company group currently employs 7,200 staff in more than 50 countries and achieved consolidated sales of 1.48 billion euros in 2017. www.bpw.de/en

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