

Rail safety gets an upgrade - the world's first software-defined ETCS hits the market

Gdańsk, Poland, 24 September 2025 – At the TRAKO trade fair in Gdańsk, The Signalling Company (TSC), a Škoda Group affiliate, officially unveiled its European Train Control System (ETCS) solution. This marks a major expansion of the Škoda Group's portfolio into the field of train safety. At the core of the solution is the Universal Digital Rail Platform iEVC-RailOS, which combines compact and modular on-board hardware with software applications. The newly certified ETCS application is the second protection system developed by TSC, which achieved official certification on this platform, following the Belgian TBL1+ system.

Here is the link to the certificate issued by European Union Agency for Railways:

https://eradis.era.europa.eu/interop_docs/NoBoCert/view.aspx?id=45279

"ETCS Certification is the Everest of the safety world. I want to take this moment of great pride to thank our incredible team. Without their phenomenal dedication none of this would have been possible. When Stan [Stanislas Pinte, TSC co-founder] and I set out on this journey we came to appreciate how much the industry was willing us to succeed. This is the moment we begin to repay the steadfast faith that Lineas, Škoda Group, and others have placed in us," explained **Alexandre Bétis, Managing Director of The Signalling Company**.

"Developing our own ETCS is a key milestone for Škoda Group. It enables us to offer customers a complete solution – from vehicle manufacturing and traction drives to cutting-edge digital safety systems. We will start using our own TSC supplied ETCS in the new generation of single-deck electric trains. This will help us significantly simplify integration, due to low weight and small size, and reduce operational costs. What makes our signalling solution exceptional is its highly modular architecture which allows us to easily support future upgrade and add new functions and evolving requirements. This level of flexibility not only ensures full compliance with national regulations but also brings clear benefits for operators and passengers by making international rail transport faster, smoother and more efficient," said **Zdeněk Sváta, Member of the Board of Directors of Škoda Group**.

"Our seed investment in TSC was driven by our need for a more financially sustainable ETCS solution to further improve the safety of our operations and continue supporting the modal shift. It was clear to us from the start that TSC's vision was aligned with ours, and they had the technology keys to make it happen. We are delighted for the team and this Belgian success story," reflected **Bruno Vanlede, Head of Rail Fleet Management at Lineas**.

The development of the ETCS solution at The Signalling Company began in 2019 with the ambition to build the world's first fully software-defined signalling platform. The project brought together close cooperation with operators and industry partners, rigorous validation in real operating conditions, and a clear focus on creating a solution that is compact, energy-efficient, and easy to install on both new and modernised vehicles. Achieving ETCS certification was the most demanding stage of this journey, given the strict European standards and extensive testing involved.

This success confirms not only the technical maturity of the platform but also its readiness to deliver the highest levels of safety and reliability for the rail sector.

iEVC-RailOS – a universal platform for multiple signalling systems

The iEVC-RailOS platform has been designed as a universal digital architecture that can host a range of safety applications – both the European ETCS standard and national signalling safety systems. A major advantage of the solution is its compactness. Unlike traditional bulky systems, it requires no major modifications to the vehicle interior and can be easily installed in both new and modernised rolling stock. As a result, retrofitting existing vehicles can be carried out faster and cost-effectively, without lengthy downtime.

The certification of ETCS builds directly on the successful certification of the Belgian TBL1+ system, completed in May 2025 on a Lineas HLD77 locomotive. This was the first national protection system certified on the universal platform developed by TSC.

The new solution paves the way for the deployment of Škoda Group's own ETCS across a wide range of projects – from new rolling stock to the modernisation of vehicles already operating on Europe's rail networks. It represents a significant expansion of Škoda Group's value chain: from the development and manufacture of vehicles to traction and control systems and now its own on-board train protection technology. This enables Škoda Group to provide customers with a unified architecture and a higher degree of technological self-sufficiency.

Notes for editors

The Signalling Company, a Škoda Group affiliate headquartered in Brussels, Belgium, is a specialist in safety critical real-time signalling applications for rail. Founded in 2019, and acquired by Škoda Group in 2023, the company launched its universal safety platform and first national signalling application for Belgium at InnoTrans in November 2024. Today, the company remains focused on extending its portfolio of signalling applications to include ETCS and other national safety standards such as PZB, for Germany and other countries, and KVB for France.

Škoda Group, a producer of complex transport solutions, has a portfolio of modern vehicles that meet the latest European standards. After more than 165 years of existence, Škoda, a direct successor to the mechanical engineering plants founded by Count Wallenstein in 1859, is a major European transportation engineering group. It produces a range of public transport vehicles and components, including low-floor trams, suburban train units, metro trainsets, electric buses and trolleybuses, as well as control and drive systems for transport systems. Škoda Group employs 10,000 people at several production sites in the Czech Republic, Finland and Turkey. The group also has business units in Germany, Italy, Austria, Belgium, Poland, Hungary and Ukraine. In 2024, the group achieved revenues of EUR 1.36 billion and EBITDA of EUR 62 million. Škoda Group is part of PPF Group.

PPF Group, a family-owned and diversified international industrial holding, operates in 25 countries in Europe, Asia, North America, and South Africa, across multiple sectors, including media, telecommunications, financial services, real estate, e-commerce, and engineering. PPF owns assets to the value of EUR 41.7 billion and employs 45,000 people globally (31 December 2024).

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