

RDC Germany Group mourns the loss of Carsten Carstensen

Hamburg, 18. January 2026 – It is with deep sadness that the RDC Germany Group bids farewell to its esteemed colleague Carsten Carstensen, who passed away peacefully after a long and serious illness. He lost his courageous battle with cancer.

“Carsten Carstensen was much more than a colleague. He was a person who shaped our company and our daily work with his warmth, humour and extraordinary creativity,” says Markus Hunkel, Chief Executive Officer, RDC Germany. As one of the first colleagues, he was among those who not only had ideas, but also turned them into reality with conviction, passion and perseverance.

His visionary power remains unforgettable. The idea for the blue AUTOZUGS Sylt in 2008, once sketched by him on a beer mat, developed into a defining part of the company and marks the birth of RDC Germany. As founder and partner of HKX and the blue AUTOZUG Sylt, he not only launched special projects, but also leaves behind a lasting mark of entrepreneurial passion. The Ukrainian evacuation train in spring 2022 was a project particularly close to his heart. He was an important driving force, visionary and reliable companion in the company's development. Hunkel concluded There are many ways that we honor his memory, including naming a locomotive for him, but also the influence of our Larger than Life colleague will be felt for generations in the European rail industry.

“Among railway people, I don't know anybody whose ability to generate ideas and translate them to reality exceeded Carsten's. With his passing, we have lost an exceptional colleague and a passionate innovator in our industry. His zest for life, his commitment and his courage have inspired all of us,” adds Henry Posner III, Chairman, RDC. “And while he was a brilliant colleague, most importantly he was a friend to many throughout the industry. We are especially grateful to his wife Katja and sons Oskar, Artur and Theo for sharing so much of his time on earth with us.”

The loss of Carsten Carstensen leaves a painful void. "Our thoughts and sympathy go out to his family, friends and all those who were close to him. Carsten will live on in our hearts and in our work. We will not forget him," said the united team at RDC Deutschland Group.

Über die RDC Deutschland Gruppe

Die RDC Deutschland Gruppe (www.rdc-deutschland.de) ist mit rund 400 Mitarbeiter*innen als eine führende Privatbahn in Schleswig-Holstein und im deutschen und europäischen Nachtzugverkehr aktiv. Sie gehört zur Railroad Development Corporation (RDC), einem mittelständischen Eisenbahn-Familienunternehmen aus Pittsburgh/USA. Zur Unternehmensgruppe gehören die RDC AUTOZUG Sylt GmbH (Sitz Westerland), die Norddeutsche Eisenbahn Niebüll GmbH (Sitz Niebüll), die RDC Asset GmbH (Sitz Hamburg), die RDC Deutschland GmbH (Sitz Hamburg), die FVE Farge-Vegesacker Eisenbahn GmbH (Sitz Bremen), TWE Teutoburger Wald Eisenbahn GmbH (Sitz Gütersloh) sowie die BTE BahnTouristikExpress GmbH (Sitz Nürnberg).