

## *Differing Perspectives at the European Lift Congress* **Heilbronn 2018**

Global standards and technology are main points of discussion during biannual event.

by Undine Stricker-Berghoff



Wolfram Vogel opens European Lift Congress Heilbronn 2018.

Under the theme “Toward New Worlds,” the European Lift Congress Heilbronn 2018 plotted out new territory. The meeting was held at a new locale, Villingen, Germany; new, unified standards were addressed; and new technologies, from digitalization to multidirectional lift cars, were discussed during the two-day event.

Georg Clauss, CEO of organizer Technical Academy Heilbronn, welcomed the 150 participants from 22 countries to the congress, which was held on

October 16-17, 2018. Wolfram Vogel, congress chairman, then thanked thyssenkrupp officials for their arrangements at the company’s test tower in nearby Rottweil and promised the gathering a highlight of the congress — a promise that he kept (see sidebar). In a comment to ELEVATOR WORLD Europe, Vogel stated that all new technologies within rising cities are based on Industry 4.0 and emphasized that they will only be realized through even more-intensive education.



Participants give their attention to one of the many presentations during the congress.



Presenters stand for a group photo.

The topics of the congress were presented as discussion points framed in a worldwide perspective.

### Standardization

The first worldwide perspective was a discussion on international standardization, presented by Esfandiar Gharibaan, vice president, codes, for KONE and chairman of CEN/TC 10.

Gharibaan opened with some facts about the elevator market with its main driver, urbanization, being strongest in the Asia Pacific region. The CEN/TC 10 EN 81-20 standard has a worldwide application of varying degrees, he said, and provides a strong basis for a global standard. A roadmap to an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standard is

The thyssenkrupp test tower in Rottweil, Germany



A group from the congress waits for the test tower tour to begin.

underway, he said, adding it will be realized with ISO/TC 178 in three steps:

1) Adopting EN 81-20/-50 as identical to ISO 8100-1/-2 and developing ISO/TS 8100-3 to address the differences with North American and Japanese standards with publication in December 2018/January 2019

2) Revising ISO 8100-1/-2 and EN 81-20/-50 together to become EN ISO 8100-1/-2 with publication of EN ISO 8100-1/-2 in 2021

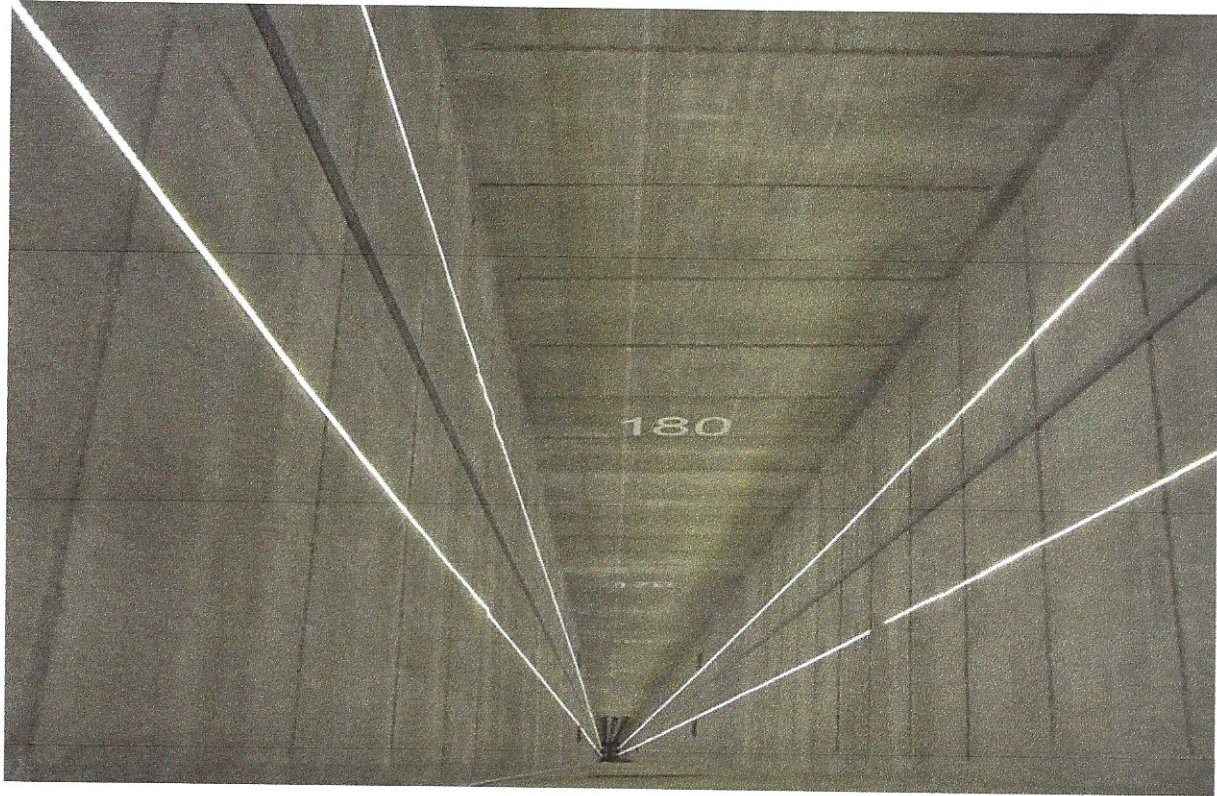
3) When either ISO 8100-1/-2 or North American and Japanese standards are revised, aligning the requirements to remove the differences among these standards

Gharibaan stressed that the publication of ISO 8100-1/-2 is a very important step, as it provides great possibilities for safety and technical harmonization for lifts around the world. He made a personal appeal that all parties consider the opportunities provided by these new global ISO standards and promoted their adoption as national standards.

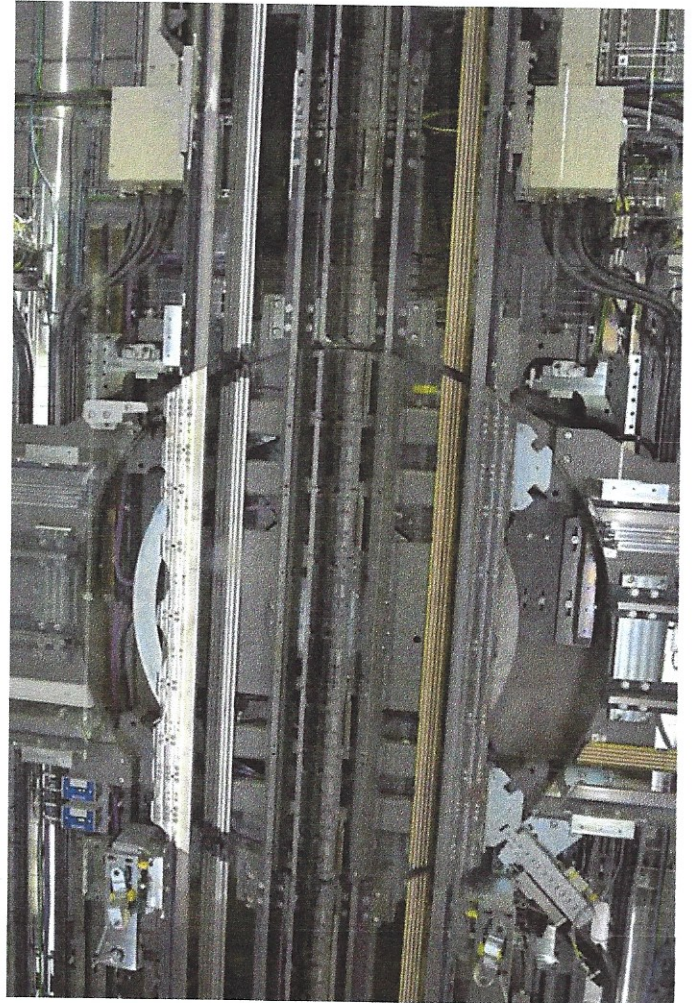
### Digitalization

Several speakers dealt with new perspectives of digitalization in the vertical-transportation (VT) business. Audience

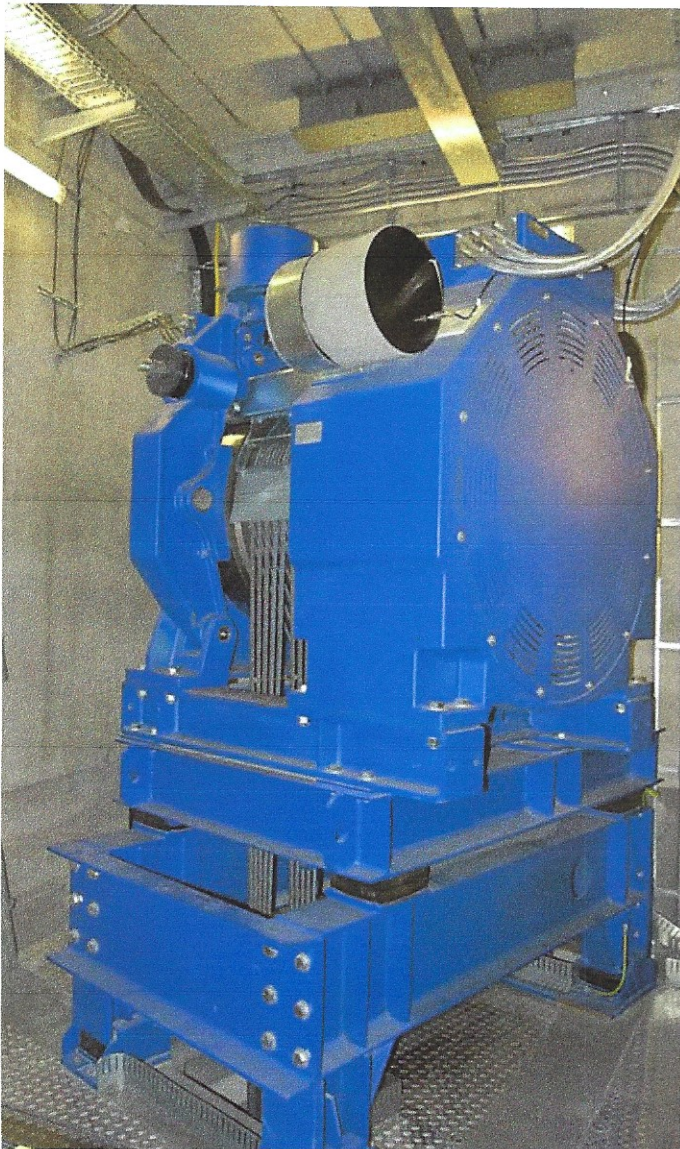
Looking down one of the test tower's hoistways, you could imagine it going on forever.



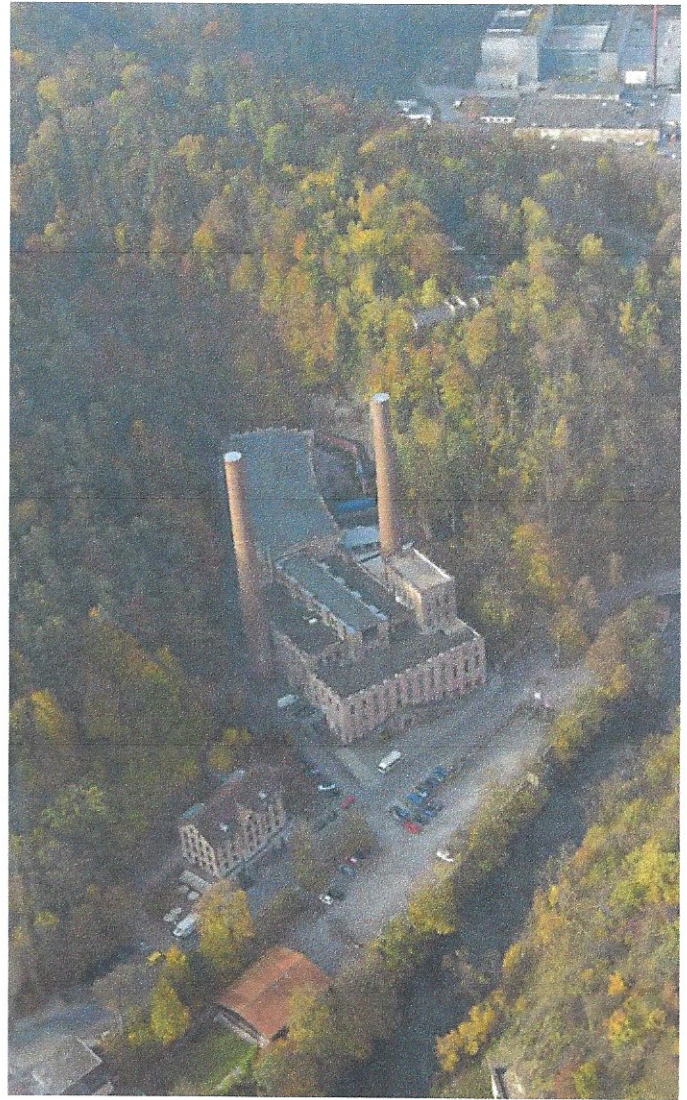
A MULTI cab, on display at the test tower



The MULTI system depends on intricately engineered components.



A TWIN machine on the 28th floor of the test tower



These chimneys at one time likely were the tallest structures in Rottweil but, seen from the thyssenkrupp test tower, look almost like children's toys.

members were unanimously of the opinion that this is the most important topic for the industry now, though some questioned if the industry is ready for it.

Roberto Zappa, the new president of the European Lift Association, looked at the growth of cities, their buildings and their inhabitants, noting the worldwide increases in urbanization. He said the expanding Internet of Things is raising expectations of users, and that building information modeling (BIM) is one information-technology (IT) tool helping to fulfill urban needs.

Andreas Fleischmann of elevator BIM software provider DigiPara of Germany quoted questions customers are increasingly raising with elevator producers: "Are you ready for BIM?" "Can you deliver as BIM?" "Can you send a BIM model?" In BIM, all work on a building during planning,

construction and operation, can be viewed in a virtual model, and product data can be added from a standardized 3D library. The likely standard will be the British Standards Institute PAS 1192.

Volker Zapf of Schindler discussed his company's use of immersive virtual reality (IVR) in early product development, training and marketing, with the ultimate focus on feasibility, installation and maintenance. Zapf said Schindler's IVR project involves up to six engineers working together in a cave automatic virtual environment (CAVE), a specially equipped room that immerses users in virtual reality. Schindler plans to establish other CAVEs in its Indian and Chinese headquarters, as well as an exhibit virtual elevator. Remaining on the topic, Eckhart Wittstock of AVARE Network introduced the Virtual Reality Lab, its infrastructure and work at Chemnitz University. 