

Press release

Railway stations are becoming a hub for parcels

The opening of the first "Hamburg Boxes" has generated huge media impact, with the installation of Kern's 24/7 Smart Terminals.

With this debut, the terminals showcase their versatility. Commuters and users of public transport in Hamburg can now use the open parcel stations at 21 railway and underground stations.

The terminals with up to 146 compartments can be used at regio express, rapid transit and underground stations. The pilot project in Hamburg is scheduled to last one year. Kern's project partners are Deutsche Bahn, Hochbahn and the IT company ParcelLock, as well as the two parcel service providers Hermes and DPD.

The flexible, sustainable and practical parcel solution enables commuters to pick up parcels on the go as a real alternative to parcel shops, parcels being left with a neighbour or the "safe place" they have chosen themselves. The software is open to all providers, i.e. all parcel service providers and local retailers can join the system. The terminals guarantee maximum security, as only the recipient can open the corresponding parcel compartment of the terminal.

This makes parcel reception as flexible as possible and has a positive ecological effect, as additional delivery attempts are avoided, which relieves urban traffic and helps protect the climate. Retailers at the train stations can use the Hamburg Box to hand over goods outside of their opening hours. The terminal therefore connects online trading with offline trading.



With this supply concept of the future, Hamburg is continuing its journey to becoming a Smart City. The terminals offer real added value for customers and promote cross-sector thinking and action. The use of the Hamburg Box is free of charge and possible for registered ParcelLock customers as well as for "guests". Customers can select the Hamburg Box as a delivery location during the ordering process and will then receive an access code to open the box.

"We are pleased to be part of this pilot project," says Rainer Rindfleisch, Managing Director of Kern GmbH, and lists further possible uses for the terminals: "Our installation in cooperation with the City of Ludwigsburg, for example, enables citizens to collect their ID documents from the City Hall around the clock. In addition, the terminals are used in companies, municipalities, the residential sector and in commerce".

Kern 24/7 Smart Terminals are a vendor-neutral white label system that offers a variety of solutions for the delivery and collection of all types of goods. Over 2,000 terminals are already in use worldwide.

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