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**Vienna hosts the first-ever World Tramdriver Championship in September 2025**

**Vienna will be the global capital of public transport when it holds the first-ever WTC event on 13 September this year. During the international competition on the ring road in front of City Hall, tramdrivers from all around the globe will be demonstrating that public transport not only gets people from A to B but also brings people from all over the world together. A female and a male driver from Wiener Linien will be facing colleagues from 24 cities on six continents and jointly celebrating a major public transport festival with fans.**

The world’s sixth-largest tram network will also be celebrating a special anniversary this year: 160 years of trams in Vienna. That's why Vienna has come up with something special for the 12th European Tramdriver Championship. We will be extending an invitation to the whole world by making the former European Championship into the World Tramdriver Championship. To accompany the championship, Wiener Linien will be organising a major public transport festival in front of City Hall with exhibitions, interactive events and a colourful programme for the whole family.

**Teams from six continents**

The main attraction at the event will be the competition between drivers from six continents. A team from San Diego is coming to represent North America, a team from Rio de Janeiro South America and a team from Melbourne will be representing the Australian continent. Also on board for the first time will be tramdrivers from the Asian metropolis Hong Kong (China).

Europe is entering strong teams as well, with many well-known cities such as Paris, Stockholm, Florence and Kyiv. Drivers from Brussels, Dublin and Rotterdam will also be taking part in the exciting disciplines. Two countries will actually be entering drivers from two cities: Berlin and Leipzig (Germany) will be competing as well as Tampere and Helsinki from Finland. The team from Budapest, last year’s winner, will be giving its all to defend the title.

Spain will be represented by Tenerife, the capital of the Canary Islands. Casablanca (Morocco) and Oran (Algeria) will be representing Africa.

The Major of Vienna, **Michael Ludwig**, is already looking forward to the event: “Vienna is the top city worldwide in terms of quality of life and public transport is a key contributor here. That is why I am all the more delighted that the world’s tram community will be visiting us this year in Vienna. Besides an exciting tram competition, there will also be enough time for networking across Europe’s borders and beyond. It goes without saying that our talented tramdrivers will be doing their utmost to win the world championship title.”

**Monika Unterholzner**, Deputy General Director at Wiener Stadtwerke, highlights the opportunity that such an event offers: “Public transport is a major factor behind Vienna repeatedly being voted the most liveable city in the world. Hardly any other city offers a more compact network and so many services for so little money. Competitions such as the World Tramdriver Championship demonstrate how much passion and heart blood powers our public transport system here in Vienna.”

**Alexandra Reinagl**, Chief Executive Officer of Vienna Linien, really appreciates what her colleagues are accomplishing: “I am very proud of our colleagues’ achievements, not only during qualification events and competitions but also every day on Vienna’s streets. They are the ones who rise before the sun and work until late in the night. They not only transport our passengers swiftly and safely from A to B but also bring people together in the city with the world’s sixth largest tramway network. I am convinced that our team will ably and fervently represent Wiener Linien at the World Tramdriver Championship.”

**Tram bowling and precision driving**

The participating teams will each consist of a female and a male driver and compete in various disciplines. These will cover every aspect of tram driving, including precision driving, target braking and other skills. The popular tram bowling discipline, involving using a tram to roll a huge ball towards bowling pins, will again be held.

Wiener Linien will be represented by **Florijan Isaku** and **Elisabeth Urbanitsch**, the winners of an exciting company-internal qualification event. Their participation is a great honour for them: “We are not only representing Wiener Linien but also the entire city and, in effect, the whole of Austria,” says Isaku. Urbanitsch adds: “The WTC event is special. I am really looking forward to networking with colleagues from all over the world.” Both are already training hard to win the title by doing what they do best: driving trams.

Website: <https://tramwm.wienerlinien.at/en/>

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