# APPLYING LOW COST AIRLINE PRICING STRATEGIES ON EUROPEAN RAILROADS



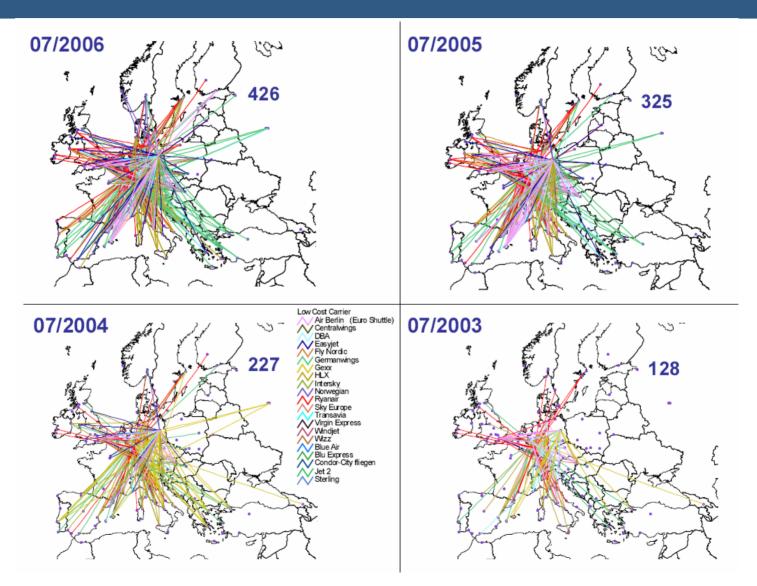
**Andrew Nash** 

Institute for Transport Planning and Systems Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich



Thomas Sauter-Servaes
Institute for Land and Sea Transport Systems
Berlin University of Technology

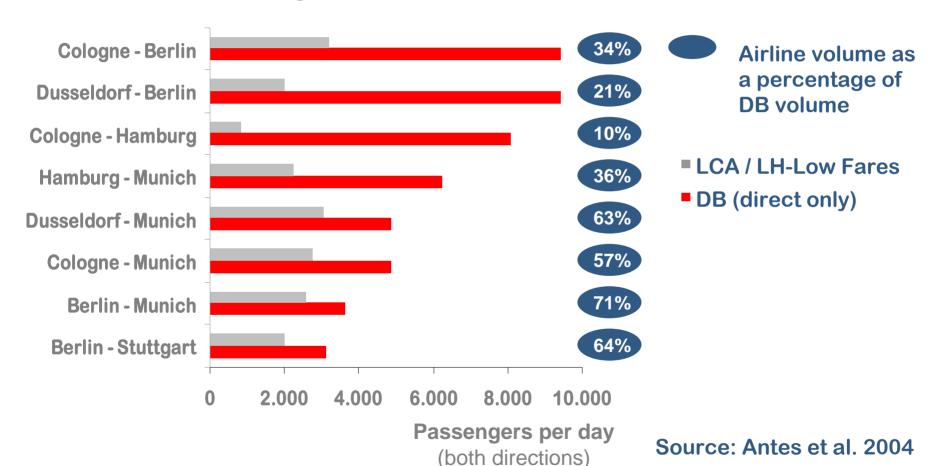
## **Growing Low Cost Airline Market**



Source: DLR / ADV 2006

#### Relevant Size of LCA-Business





DB: Only direct links (no connections) included in capacity calculation
Assumption for Lufthansa - 25% of tickets in low-fare category; load factor: DB 40%; LCA 80%
DB: Schedule 2003. Airlines: Schedules 06/2004

#### Introduction of New Train Products in France and Italy













#### iDTGV - The French Experimental Train



#### SNCF created iDTGV...

- to compete with low cost airlines between Paris and the Mediterranean coast
- to explore new services and product ideas

#### Niche product:

• 8,000 iDTGV-seats per week against 300,000 TGV-seats (2005)

### **Measures to Reduce Operating Costs**



- Only online distribution
- No cancellation, restricted change of tickets
- Ticket control on the platform
- "Piggyback" Service:
  - No own locomotive driver,
  - Reduced (shared) infrastructure charges
- Using surplus rolling stock

Cost reduction: 20 %



### iDTGV – an Experiment in Value Added Services



- Two different travel atmospheres:
  - iDzap: entertainment area
  - iDzen:silence area
- Add-on revenue and improved travel time utilization

#### **iDTGV** Pricing Strategy





- Price logic like a Low Cost Airline
  - Low starting price:19 EUR
  - Price increase depending on booking date and booking level
- No regular price reductions

#### **Assessment of iDTGV Service**

- Targeted average load factors exceeded
- 470.000 Passengers in the first year
- 84 % satisfied with service quality
- Sales 2005: € 22 million
- Opening of two new lines in 2006

# TrenOK – the low cost company of Trenitalia



## TrenOK – An original No Frill Service

- No frills transportation
  - Old rolling stock
  - One class
  - No supplementary in-train services
- Additional measures to reduce operating costs
  - Stops at suburban station, no service of main downtown stations
  - Reduced wages for TrenOK-employees



## **TrenOK – Simple Pricing System**

- 3-step-model: €9 €19 €25
- Regular EuroStar fare: €46
- Price differentiation based on
  - Amount of time before travel date
  - Fixed number of tickets in each price category

#### Conclusions

- New brands as test bed for new train products with different processes and innovative services
- iDTGV-approach:
  - Yield management: reducing perceived ticket costs
  - Value added services: additional revenue and utilization of travel time
- TrenOK-approach
  - Very simple price system
  - Classical no frills concept

#### Thank you very much for your attention!



Andrew Nash
Institute for Transport Planning and Systems
ETH Zurich

nash@ivt.baug.ethz.ch
http://www.ivt.ethz.ch/index\_EN



Thomas Sauter-Servaes
Institute for Land and Sea Transport Systems
TU Berlin

TSauter@Railways.TU-Berlin.de www.Railways.TU-Berlin.de