

From the Ministries

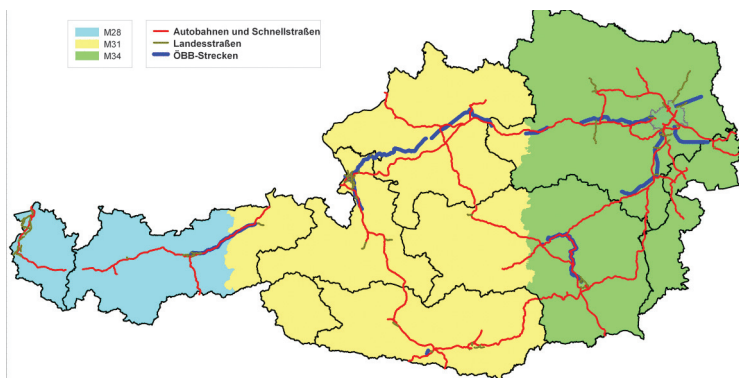
NOISE MAPPING AUSTRIA

Within the implementation of the EC Directive on environmental noise, strategic noise maps for all of Austria were calculated with CadnaA. The project, carried out by Accon GmbH (Acoustical Consultants), covered all major roads and all major railways within Austria. Noise maps and all relevant statistics were produced for 2100 km roads, 550 km railways and a total area of more than 8000 km².

The noise maps were provided nationwide on a scale of 1:5000.

Statistics were done for the country, for each state and also for each of the 850 municipalities. In addition hot spot analyses were carried out and the exposure of inhabitants was evaluated. The noise maps of Austria are published online at www.umgebungslaerm.at.

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INDUSTRY LOBBY ATTACKS EU DELAY ON "CLEAN SKY"

Europe's aerospace and defence industries have urged the EU and national governments to boost spending on research and development and provide loans for distressed suppliers.

The call, from the Aerospace and Defence Industries Association (ASD), the pan-European trade lobby, comes as airlines are cancelling or postponing orders for new planes, cutting thousands of staff and preparing for a 12% fall in revenues.

But Allan Cook, chief executive of British arms firm Cobham and the ASD's president, insisted that the industry was not asking for a bailout along the lines of the depressed automotive sector.

Both he and Tom Enders, Airbus

chief executive and the head of the German aerospace industry body BDLI, want governments to boost funding.



Enders attacked the European Commission for causing a year-long delay to a key "Clean Sky" project to cut

aircraft noise by half and emissions of carbon dioxide and nitric oxide by 50% and 80% respectively within seven years. The project complements aviation's planned inclusion within the EU emissions trading scheme to cut greenhouse gases but, Enders said, without it airlines already reeling from the crisis would be hammered.

Cook added: "The Americans don't have to go through this level of bureaucracy to see investments in their industry."

Amid mounting fears that Boeing was stealing a march on "clean" fuels with White House and Pentagon

support, Enders said "there is no time to lose" in delivering the €1.6bn (£1.4bn) project.

Clean Sky, first launched in October 2006, is funded 50-50 by governments and industry but Enders said it was struggling to get off the ground because of internal commission constraints.

"I see the clear and present danger that the programme will fail to produce the required results on time and that industry will very soon be obliged to redirect its funds towards other national or company technology initiatives," he said.

EU COSTS PILED ON UK TAXPAYERS

UK councils face a potential £22 million repair bill to upgrade their bin lorries to comply with EU law and minimise their vibration – reducing an apparent injury risk to staff.

Local authorities have been warned they face prosecution if crews of refuse trucks are continually exposed to the vibration from speed bumps, pot holes or even an idling engine.

Now they face a massive refit bill to improve the suspensions and cab seats of their bin lorry fleets to dampen the bounce and remove the shake, rattle and roll.

It is estimated there are more than 8,750 bin lorries emptying the country's bins and the upgrade cost of each truck is estimated to be at least £2,500, meaning the total bill to eliminate vibration from the fleet will be £21.8 million.

The maintenance programme includes the installation of new shock absorbers and hydraulic-cushioned seats.



The new EU directive, the Control of Noise and Control of Vibration Regulations, comes into effect in July next year. It aims to protect staff from harmful vibrations from vehicles and plant machines and is devised to eradicate Whole Body Vibration (WBV), which relates to vibration from industrial machines and vehicles.

VA ONE 2008.5

ESI Group has announced the release of VA One 2008.5. VA One is a complete solution for simulating noise and vibration across the full frequency range seamlessly combining Finite Elements, Boundary Elements, and Statistical Energy Analysis (SEA) in one model. The new release comprises over 40

major enhancements across all modules.

New isolators and junctions: Isolators and noise control treatments are an important part of the design of products with superior noise and vibration performance. VA One 2008.5 includes improved models of isolators and noise control treatments between structural and acoustic subsystems. The

models have been developed in conjunction with leading isolator manufacturers.

More accurate models of acoustic radiation: The Fast Multipole Boundary Element algorithm in VA One 2008.5 has been further enhanced to provide more accurate models of acoustic radiation at lower frequencies. Applications include the design of quieter Continuously Variable Transmissions (CVTs) and the acoustic design of brake assemblies with reduced propensity for squeal.

Productivity enhancements: VA One 2008.5 contains a number of key enhancements for speeding up model creation including faster creation of manual junctions between subsystems, interactive design of poroelastic noise control treatments and automated meshing of non-manifold CAD geometry.

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LAUGHTER OF CHILDREN TOO LOUD

A county official in northwest Washington state has turned down a permit for a Montessori preschool in South Kitsap out of concern that the laughter of children would disturb nearby residents.

SOUND PROOFING COSTS

A new live music venue in Cardiff is having to undertake remedial sound work only months after it opened following an order from the city's council. The Globe opened its doors in November, and is aiming to host live music seven nights a week. However, the council had to issue a noise abatement notice to the venue, which borders residential streets. The Globe management said it was "doing everything in our power to avoid any disturbances to our local residents". Last month, the well-established music venue The Point in Butetown was forced to seek voluntary liquidation after it had suffered problems, including noise issues with neighbours. The Point had to spend £50,000 on sound insulation when it received complaints from a few people who had moved into new flats built next to the venue. The venue said the cost of the insulation work combined with lost revenue while the work was carried out and current trading conditions had forced the closure.

NOISE EXEMPTION CHANGE IS SOUGHT

Raleigh (wVa) County Sheriff Steve Tanner asked the county commission to make an "exception to the exception" of the county noise ordinance. Tanner is asking for the ordinance change in response to complaints by Ghent residents that a local club blasts loud music seven days a week. The club, which has gone by several names, including Appalachian Resort Inn, rents a property owned by Assemblies of God ministries, Tanner said. "They have music playing that neighbors up to half a mile away can hear the bass pounding," he said. "Neighbors have stated that they could watch the china vibrate in their living and dining rooms with doors and windows closed." Tanner said he and deputies have watched the vibrating china on their many calls to address the complaints. "We've sent deputies asking them to turn down the music," he said, adding club workers do turn down the music at deputies' requests. "But it goes back up the next day," he said. The county noise ordinance bans loud music which disrupts neighbors, but exempts church worship services and church bells. Tanner would like to amend the ordinance exception to protect only church worship services which are of "reasonable duration."

NO NOISE AIRPORT

Denver International Airport said it caused no “serious” noise violations in 2008, the first violation-free year in 14 years of operation. There were no “Class II Noise Exposure Performance Standards” violations at DIA in 2008, the airport said in a statement. There was one such violation in 2007, DIA said. The noise standards are called for in a 1988 agreement between the city of Denver and surrounding Adams County that was reached before DIA was built. The airport opened in 1995. The agreement calls for Denver to pay compensation if it violates the noise standards and does not remedy the problem. Noise levels are measured by computerized monitors at 101 points in a grid across Adams County. The airport said that aircraft noise exposure has been trending downward in recent years despite an overall trend of rising air traffic. Aviation Manager Kim Day said that DIA’s Noise Abatement Office, its Operations Division, airlines and the Federal Aviation Administration have been working together to minimize noise exposure. As far as overall noise complaints directly from citizens, DIA said they dropped 12.1 percent in 2008 from the previous year, to 942. The airport said complaints came from 115 households, with 54 percent coming from five households.

OSHA TAKES NO PRISONERS

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is issuing citations for 24 occupational health and safety violations against H P Pelzer Automotive Systems Inc. in Thomson, Ga. The agency is proposing \$135,000 in penalties against the company. A health inspection of the plant revealed seven serious violations resulting in penalties of \$32,500. The health violations include the company allowing combustible dust to accumulate, not protecting employees from noise hazards and exposing employees to an airborne concentration of formaldehyde.

NOISE-MAKER TO PAY COST OF CITY’S INVESTIGATION

A Healdsburg (CA) beverage bottling plant has been found in violation of the city’s noise ordinance and ordered to pay the cost of the city’s enforcement efforts against it. The Healdsburg Planning Commission determined Sonoma Beverage Company broke the city’s noise rules and also should reimburse the city about \$5,200 in administrative costs of the investigation.

CINEMA’S RENT WITHHELD OVER NOISE

A legal dispute over alleged noise problems at one of Northern Ireland’s premier cinemas has led to £2.5m in rent being withheld, judges have been told. Lawyers for the Australian firm Village Theatres 3, who lease out screens at the Odyssey Centre in Belfast, revealed the level of money owed as the case against them was widened to include claims of both fraudulent and negligent misrepresentation. Cinema operator Village Theatres 3 is resisting attempts to have a contract worth up to 20 million cancelled due to alleged disturbances at the entertainment complex. Odyssey Cinemas Ltd, operating as Storm Cinemas, is seeking an order scrapping the 20-year lease it entered into in 2006. Allegations have been made of a fraudulent failure to disclose the existence of serious noise and vibration from other premises before the deal was signed. Village Theatres has disputed this and questioned claims that the problem is so serious that trade has been hit. But ahead of a full hearing of the case, lawyers for Odyssey Cinemas won the right to amend their case to also include allegations of negligence.