

Mobility for all!

There are more than one billion people with disabilities worldwide. That is more than 15 per cent of the world's total population. A number that is likely to increase further with demographic change. This makes barrier-free means of transport all the more important. The (urban) ropeway as a transport system already fulfils essential aspects of the required accessibility.

The cabins and the entrances and exits of cable cars are barrier-free ex works. This means that bulky items such as wheelchairs, prams, bicycles and the like can be carried in the cabins without any problems. This can even be ensured in small gondolas, as the doors of the cabins are wide and benches can be folded up.

Since the individual cabins within the station are only transported at a low speed, even physically impaired persons can get on and off without major problems and without the help of the staff. If necessary, the cabins can even be stopped completely and access can take place in a standing position. „Since cable cars operate on the third level, many people find it difficult to believe that barrier-free operation is possible. That's why it's important for me to say that there are many different ropeway systems. But all of them can be designed barrier-free,“ explains Gerald Pichlmair, initiator of the **CABLE CAR WORLD** trade event.

The fact is that not only the cabins but also the station buildings are planned to be obstacle-free, as is already known from other transport systems. Ramps, lifts or conveyor belts can help to make such a system accessible to wheelchair users.

MORE THAN WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

More and more people are becoming sensitised to the issue of disability, which is why today the fulfilment of accessibility is more than just a heartfelt project of a few. The success or failure of a mobility project can be measured by the issue of accessibility. The problem is that many people often only think of wheelchair users when they think of accessible transport. Someone with a visual impairment would not be restricted by steps, but without acoustic signals the transport system still cannot be used without outside assistance. „Cable cars have long had a wide variety of protective and support functions that are part of a modern mobility system. This makes the cable car truly a transport system for everyone,“ says Dominik Berndt, initiator of the **CABLE CAR WORLD** trade event.

Anyone who wants to learn more about the accessibility of cable car systems can do so at **CABLE CAR WORLD**. At the „red theme island“, the ropeway manufacturers BARTHOLET, DOPPELMAYR and LEITNER will jointly provide information on the barrier-free use of urban ropeways. The congress with integrated trade fair will take place on 21 and 22 June 2022 at Messe Essen.

More information on the **CABLE CAR WORLD** schedule and programme can be found at cablecarworld.com