

CASE: BERLIN CENTRAL STATION

Getting people to their destination.

Berlin Hauptbahnhof, or Berlin Central Station, is Europe's largest and most modern interchange station. Following extensive renovation work, the station reopened on 27 May 2006, and now handles approximately 300,000 people daily. The majority of these are travelling, but many come to visit the station's modern shopping center. As part of the reconstruction project, KONE was selected to deliver 54 escalator units, providing a comprehensive People Flow™ solution for this 70,000 square meter complex.

Challenge

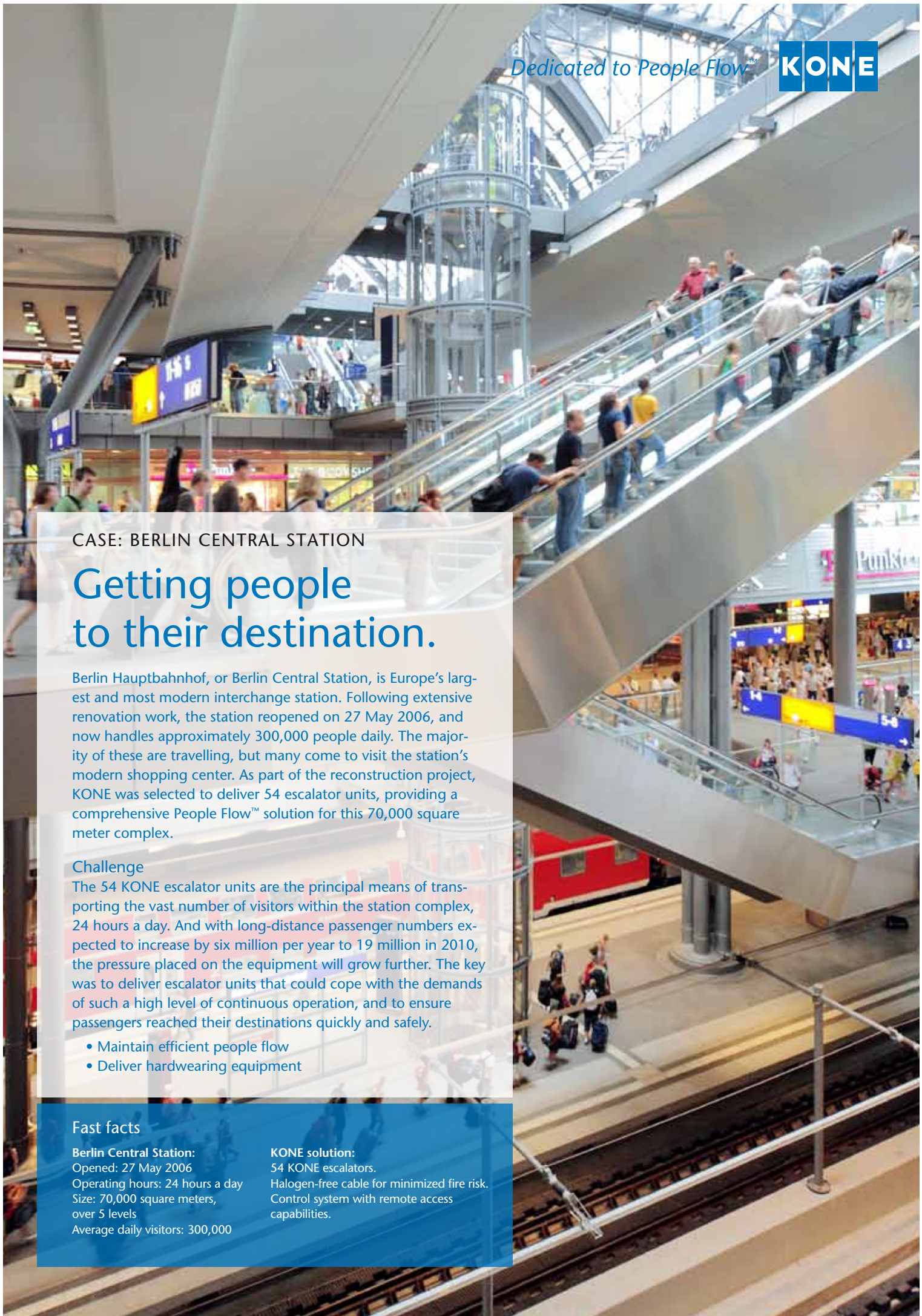
The 54 KONE escalator units are the principal means of transporting the vast number of visitors within the station complex, 24 hours a day. And with long-distance passenger numbers expected to increase by six million per year to 19 million in 2010, the pressure placed on the equipment will grow further. The key was to deliver escalator units that could cope with the demands of such a high level of continuous operation, and to ensure passengers reached their destinations quickly and safely.

- Maintain efficient people flow
- Deliver hardwearing equipment

Fast facts

Berlin Central Station:
Opened: 27 May 2006
Operating hours: 24 hours a day
Size: 70,000 square meters,
over 5 levels
Average daily visitors: 300,000

KONE solution:
54 KONE escalators.
Halogen-free cable for minimized fire risk.
Control system with remote access capabilities.



Keeping people moving at Berlin Central Station.



A complex logistical operation

The installation of the 54 escalator units over five levels required complex planning. To ensure minimal passenger disruption, eight units were installed before the building was closed, some were brought in using specially made trains and platforms, and 14 were lowered in via an opening in the roof. The result is five perfectly linked levels, which take into account the traffic flow requirements of Europe's largest railway station.

Putting passengers first

The KONE ECO3000™ escalator units were selected with passengers in mind. The one-meter-wide step ensures comfort and safety, while the speed and gradient at which the units run make

them easier to use when carrying luggage. Additional emergency stop switches and brushes along the skirtings were fitted for added passenger convenience, and extended balustrade heads and traffic lights were used to maintain effective people flow.

Safety as a priority

KONE always takes the issue of safety extremely seriously when designing its solutions, and Berlin Hauptbahnhof was no different. Given the high passenger numbers expected and the continuous operation of equipment, safety was paramount. Fire protection for escalators is a particularly important consideration, so KONE provided solutions made from materials that minimized fire risks. The units also featured extra thick safety glass. As a result, people can move about the complex not just quickly, but safely too.

Designed to reflect their environment

The station complex is a striking piece of architecture, featuring glass-arched structures that flood the building with light. KONE ensured the design of the escalator units were in keeping with this light and airy look by fitting glass balustrades and small invisible handrail rollers instead of the large wheels normally used.

KONE was selected to deliver 54 escalator units, providing a comprehensive People Flow™ solution for this 70,000 square meter complex.

