

## PRESS RELEASE

### **VDL Bus & Coach delivers first Citea Low Floor double-decker to BVG**

On Tuesday 11 August the first VDL Citea Low Floor double-decker was delivered to the Berlin Transport Authority (BVG, Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe). With this new 11.40-metre-long, 2-axle vehicle VDL has now entered the double-decker bus segment for public transport lines. The Citea DLF-114 has two staircases to the upper deck and can accommodate up to 97 passengers. As such, the DLF-114 fulfils both the economic and environmental requirements of modern-day city traffic, with a maximum number of seats and passengers for a 2-axled unit. This highly efficient alternative for the city meets all aspects of the requirements VDL sets in connection with its brand value “Profit of Ownership”. The Citea DLF-114 is expected to be deployed on the bus lines in the Spandau borough of Berlin starting in early October.

#### **Extensive practical testing**

To ensure that they continue to have the right transport resources to meet the widely ranging requirements of a growing city BVG tests new buses regularly. A key aspect of these tests is the flow of passengers, especially between the lower and upper deck, and particularly in combination with the waiting time at the stops and the occupancy of the lower and upper deck. In addition to testing, interviews are conducted to survey passengers' subjective impressions. Of course the BVG drivers involved in the testing are also asked to share their findings.

“We are pleased to be the first large passenger transport company to have the opportunity to extensively test this new vehicle,” said Dr. Sigrid Evelyn Nikutta, CEO of BVG. “We are also curious to see whether the VDL double-decker meets our stringent requirements with regard to comfort, quality and efficiency during the testing phase, and whether this bus could be a useful addition to the existing BVG fleet.”

“We are proud to present the very first Citea double-decker in the world to BVG for use in their practical testing, and we are very pleased that BVG have once again placed confidence in us,” said Silke Tödter, General Manager VDL Bus & Coach Deutschland.

#### **Citea DLF-114**

In developing the new VDL Citea DLF (Double deck Low Floor), optimum use will be made of the module system around which the Citea range is built. Thanks the clever combination of vehicle superstructure and a lightweight low floor construction, the Citea DLF also has a low net weight, which results in excellent fuel economy and minimal emissions of harmful exhaust gases. Add to that the long service life and the result is maximum ‘Profit of Ownership’.

For the passengers, the VDL Citea DLF-114 offers some extras and innovations compared to the buses in BVG's current fleet. The rows of seats on the upper deck are equipped with USB connections. Via a display on the lower deck passengers can see how many seats are still free on

the upper deck. The boarding area has heated floors. Furthermore, the Citea DLF features a new, innovative interior concept. The floor covering at the boarding area, on the stairs and in the upper deck area is made in a lighter colour and the seat fabric has a completely new colour. Led lamps on the staircases and each tread provide better visibility. Kerb lighting and ribbed hand grips at the second door offer visually impaired passengers better orientation when boarding and alighting.

### **The Berlin Transport Authority (BVG)**

Three million people travel on buses, trams and metros in Berlin each day. That is nearly equivalent to the city's entire population. The Berlin Transport Authority carried no fewer than 978 million passengers in 2014. Germany's largest municipal transport company operates a total of 10 metro lines, 22 tram lines and 151 bus lines, in addition to five ferry connections. 173 metro stations, 808 tram stops and around 6,500 bus stops form the backbone for mobility in the neighbourhoods and districts. BVG and S-Bahn Berlin GmbH provide the city's residents with transportation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### **VDL Bus & Coach**

The core activities of VDL Bus & Coach consist of the development, manufacturing, sales and after-sales of a wide range of buses, coaches and chassis modules and the purchase and sales of second-hand buses. Manufacturing takes place in the Netherlands and Belgium. VDL Bus & Coach places high value on quality, safety, durability, the environment, low fuel consumption, comfort and low maintenance costs. Sales of VDL Bus & Coach products take place through a worldwide network consisting of corporate-owned sales offices, importers and agents in more than 30 countries. This makes it possible to offer custom-made transport solutions. For after-sales and maintenance, the client can count on rapid, hassle-free assistance from VDL Bus & Coach employees in any of the many service locations. An extensive distribution network ensures that spare parts and accessories are delivered to the requested destination as quickly as possible. VDL Bus & Coach is one of the largest bus producers in Europe.

### **VDL Groep**

VDL Bus & Coach is part of VDL Groep. VDL Groep, with its head office in Eindhoven (The Netherlands), is an international industrial company focused on the development, production and sales of semi-finished products, buses & coaches and other finished products and the assembly of cars. Since the founding in 1953 this family-owned company has grown to include 86 operating companies, spread over 19 countries with more than 10,300 employees. The strength of VDL Groep lies in the mutual cooperation between the companies.

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