

PRESS RELEASE

131 VDL Citeas for Belgian passenger transport company De Lijn

Belgian passenger transport company De Lijn has placed another large order with VDL Bus & Coach. In total, the order comprises 121 VDL Citeas SLE and 10 driving instructor buses, Citeas SLE with a second set of pedals for the driving instructor. This order is supplemental to the 67 Citeas SLE and 9 Citeas SLFA that were ordered in August 2015.

“We are extremely happy with this great follow-up order from De Lijn. In less than three years, De Lijn has ordered a total of 345 buses and 41 micro buses from us. We are proud to be able to build so many buses for De Lijn,” says Peter Wouters, managing director of VDL Bus Roeselare, the factory where the Citeas for De Lijn are being built.

The first new buses will be delivered in the spring of 2017. The Citeas will be put in service on various lines in Flanders.

Economical and environmentally friendly

For award of the order the emphasis was on quality, durability and TCO (Total Cost of Ownership), which includes not only the purchase price but also factors in consumption and maintenance costs. The modular construction of the Citea range allows all the models to benefit from the characteristic Citea features. The innovative lightweight construction means the Citeas have a low kerb weight. This, combined with efficient engines, results in less fuel consumption and lower emissions of harmful substances. The Citeas SLE for De Lijn will be fitted with a 6.7 litre Cummins ISB6.7E6 280B engine. This Euro 6 engine more than meets the applicable environmental standards. Moreover, in combination with the Citea lightweight concept, it also guarantees optimal TCO.

Citea SLE

The Citeas SLE for De Lijn have a length of 12 metres and can carry 110 passengers, with 37 seats and 73 standing places. The low floor construction at the entry and exit door provides optimal accessibility for wheelchair users and passengers with baby buggies. Air conditioning provides extra travelling comfort. The interior is finished in a very light colour scheme to match De Lijn's house style, and a high priority has been placed on passenger comfort.

The driver's cockpit is fully adapted to the needs of De Lijn and includes a driver's door with lowering window, optimal comfort for the driver and maximum storage space. The dashboard is also laid out according to De Lijn's specifications.

V.V.M. De Lijn

De Lijn is the commercial name of the Flemish public transport company, an autonomous public company for the city and regional bus and tram service in Flanders. De Lijn is committed to quality, customer-oriented public transport. The company also has a strong commitment to providing punctual, reliable and fast service with sufficient capacity, frequency and safety. In total,

this involves around 10,500 workers, approximately 8,100 of which are employed at V.V.M. De Lijn. The remaining 2,400 work for bus companies that provide service on behalf of V.V.M. De Lijn.

After the delivery of the 131 Citeas, practically all 2,200 of De Lijn's buses will have a particulate filter. Thanks to these filters and the purchase of buses with cleaner running engines, De Lijn has reduced its buses' particulate matter emissions by 80% over the last five years. Emissions of NOx and unburned hydrocarbons have also been greatly reduced. Moreover, after this fleet upgrade 80% of the buses will be wheelchair accessible.

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, the conversion or extension of mini & midi buses 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 87 operating companies, spread over 19 countries with more than 10,500 employees and a turnover of 2.7 billion euros. The strength of VDL Groep lies in the mutual cooperation between the companies.

Valkenswaard, 31 March 2016

VDL Bus & Coach bv
Marleen van Zeeland
Communications
Phone +31 (0)40 208 44 14
m.van.zeeland@vdlbuscoach.com

VDL Bus Roeselare nv
Peter Wouters
Managing Director
Phone +32 (0)51 23 26 11
p.wouters@vdlbusroeselare.be