

PRESS RELEASE

100 electric VDL Citeas and 18 VDL Futura double-deckers for Connexxion

Dutch public transport company Connexxion has placed an order with VDL Bus & Coach for no fewer than 100 Citeas SLFA Electric. This is the largest order for electric buses in VDL's history and gives Connexxion and its parent company Transdev the largest electric bus fleet in Europe. The order also includes 18 VDL Futuras FDD2. It is the first time that double-deckers will be used for public transport in the Netherlands. All the buses and coaches are destined for the Amstelland-Meerlanden concession in the province of North Holland, a concession characterized by huge passenger demand.

“This is the first stage in the transition to completely emission-free public transport for Amstelland-Meerlanden. Naturally, we are using all we have learned in the South-east Brabant concession, where VDL successfully supplied us with 43 articulated Citeas Electric. Therefore we have every confidence in the product and the collaboration with VDL,” says Eric van Eijndhoven, public transport director for Connexxion.

Ard Romers, director VDL Bus & Coach Nederland says, “We want to be the top specialist in the field of E-Mobility. This past year we have taken big steps towards further strengthening our position. We also offer customization to meet the wishes and requirements of a transport operator. The use of Futura double-deck coaches for very busy line service routes is a good example of this. We are therefore particularly proud of this mega-order for a total of 118 vehicles.”

VDL Citea SLFA Electric

The 100 electric Citeas will be deployed for the bus lines serving Schiphol and the surrounding area and on bus rapid transit lines within the concession area. The buses are of the same type as the articulated buses used by Hermes in Eindhoven. With 100 units, however, this will be the largest electric bus fleet in Europe. The buses will have their batteries topped up periodically so they can operate 24 hours per day. There will be places at the depot where they can be charged at night, if desired. Each of the electric buses will be driven over 100,000 km per year, and they will be fitted with the latest battery technology that meets the highest and strictest European requirements.

VDL Futura FDD2

The Futura double-deckers are destined for rapid transit lines between Haarlem and Amsterdam South. The need for transport is so great there that the decision has been taken to use VDL Futura double-deck coaches. With a length of 14.1 metres, there is room for 86 seats. The door constructions will be adapted to the demanding public transport work. To optimize the flow of passengers and entry and exit, displays will be placed on the outside to show where free seats are still available.



Transdev

Transdev is active in the Netherlands under the brands Connexxion Openbaar Vervoer, Connexxion Taxi and Witte Kruis. The Transdev Group has locations in 19 countries and is active in passenger transport and mobile care. Internationally, Transdev provides various types of transport: buses, taxis and trains, light rail, ferries and bicycles. The company employs over 83,000 people under the Transdev banner.

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 90 operating companies, spread over 19 countries with more than 13,000 employees and an annual turnover of 3.2 billion euros in 2016. The strength of VDL Groep lies in the mutual cooperation between the companies.

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