

PRESS RELEASE

1,000,000 electric kilometres in Eindhoven VDL congratulates Hermes on electric milestone

On 18 April 2017, Dutch passenger transport company Hermes reached the milestone of 1,000,000 kilometres travelled with the 43 electric buses that have been in service since last December. The fully electric VDL Citeas, with their futuristic design, are now a common sight in Eindhoven. The drivers operate the buses on 8 different zero emission routes with due pride. The electric operation is now operating at full capacity, with the buses clocking up over 9,000 km every weekday. Several buses even cover more than 340 km per day on their own. All the preconceptions about limited action radius have been dispelled by the cutting edge rapid charging concept at the Hermes depot. Intensive cooperation between VDL and Hermes has ensured that the Dutch vision on sustainable public transport is actually put into practice.

The fact that a unique operation is currently under way in Eindhoven, is clear from the many visits other European carriers and cities are paying to Eindhoven to experience and see with their own eyes that the future is already in full swing here. The big winners at this milestone, however, are the Eindhoven residents themselves. Because, with these million zero emission kilometres, emissions of NOx have been reduced by no less than 4.7 tonnes and emissions of CO₂ by over 1,000 tonnes. This achievement after just 4 months of operation is very promising for the future indeed!

VDL Citea SLFA Electric

The VDL Citea SLFA Electric is an articulated bus with a length of 18.1 metres built with an updated, futuristic BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) design. This design was recently honoured with the Red Dot Award 2017.

With the delivery of the 43 Citeas SLFA Electric to Hermes, the Dutch province of North Brabant has Europe's largest operational zero emission bus fleet. The buses will have their batteries topped up periodically so as to have sufficient range to be kept in service all day. VDL also delivered the charging stations and supplies them with power in cooperation with the electricity supplier. This makes VDL not only bus supplier but also system supplier. On certain lines the buses run so frequently that the system functions more like a tram. These high-frequency lines go to key destinations in Eindhoven, such as Eindhoven Airport and the High Tech Campus. At these connections travellers will never again have a long wait for the next bus because the system will operate as a full-fledged 'show up and go' system.

Transdev

Hermes is part of Connexion Nederland, which in turn falls under the French parent company Transdev. Transdev, global player in the field of passenger transport and related activities, is active in 20 countries and has around 83,000 employees. In the Netherlands, Transdev is active

with a number of brands, including Connexion Openbaar Vervoer, Taxi and Tours and Witte Kruis ambulance. Internationally, Transdev works on smart, sustainable forms of mobility and customer care, as flexibly, efficiently and personally as possible.

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 almost 15,000 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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