

PRESS RELEASE

10 articulated VDL Citeas Electric for Qbuzz in Groningen

Dutch public transport firm Qbuzz has ordered 10 VDL Citeas SLFA Electric in BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) design from VDL Bus & Coach bv. These 10 articulated electric Citeas will be put in service on the first fully electric Q-link bus lines, 1 and 11, in Groningen from 11 December 2017. Q-link is the BRT bus network from the region to major destinations in the City of Groningen. Based on the principle of 'opportunity charging', the buses are charged during service, along the line. This boosts the buses' range sufficiently to enable them to provide service on the long Q-link lines. VDL delivers special rapid charging stations for this purpose. At the end of scheduled service the buses are fully recharged in the Qbuzz depot overnight. VDL not only supplies the buses but is also responsible for the complete system and provides installation of the charging stations as well.

Further sustainability of bus fleet

In collaboration with Qbuzz, OV-bureau Groningen Drenthe has worked out a transition plan for further sustainability of the bus transport in Groningen and Drenthe. By 2030 the Netherlands' entire bus fleet, and thus all buses in Groningen and Drenthe, must operate with zero emissions. As a first step in this transition Qbuzz will begin providing service on the line Q-link Green with 10 electric VDL Citeas from 11 December 2017.

Red Dot Award 2017 for 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. Recently, the VDL Citea SLFA Electric was crowned with the Red Dot Award 2017. The Red Dot Award is a prestigious international design award presented annually by Design Zentrum Nordrhein Westfalen in Essen, Germany. The VDL Citea Electric won the award in the category 'product design'. The jury was unanimously enthusiastic about the innovative design of the articulated VDL Citea SLFA that has made the electric transport of tomorrow fully operational today.

Qbuzz

Qbuzz was established in April 2008. Qbuzz is an ambitious and innovative quality driven company in the Dutch regional mobility market. Qbuzz has recently won two concessions by offering high-quality public transport. Qbuzz transports approximately 230,000 customers daily with 2,400 employees, 650 buses and 26 trams.

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 92 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.

Valkenswaard, 8 May 2017

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

VDL Bus & Coach Nederland bv – Ard Romers – Director
Telephone +31 (0)40 208 44 90 – a.romers@vdlbuscoach.com

VDL Bus & Coach bv – Alex de Jong – Business Manager Public Transport
Telephone +31 (0)40 208 44 00 – a.de.jong@vdlbuscoach.com