

PRESS RELEASE

New order from De Lijn for VDL Bus & Coach

Belgian passenger transport company De Lijn has ordered 66 VDL Citea's SLE hybrid and 55 VDL Citea's SLE in the diesel version from VDL Bus & Coach. "We are proud that we can supply to De Lijn and are confident our buses will make a very positive contribution to the sustainability and profitability of the De Lijn fleet." The buses are made at VDL Bus Roeselare. VDL Bus & Coach is the only bus manufacturer that carries out its production exclusively in Western Europe. "This order is therefore also very important for employment in Belgium", says Peter Wouters, Managing Director of VDL Bus Roeselare. All the vehicles are to be delivered in 2018 and early 2019 and will be deployed on various lines in Flanders.

VDL Citea SLE-120 hybrid

The Citea SLE-120 hybrid is 12 meters in length, is equipped with a serial hybrid system with **STOP & GO** function. The vehicles for Flemish public transport company De Lijn are designed in such a way that they can move off from traffic lights and bus stops using only the electric motor, without starting the diesel engine.

The concept of this Citea SLE Hybrid is modularly customizable to enable even longer journeys to be driven purely electrically. By using an inverted pantograph and a larger battery pack, the electrical autonomy is further increased.

VDL Citea SLE-120

The Citea SLE-120 is also 12 meters in length and is equipped with a Euro 6 Cummins ISB6.7E6C engine. Thanks to its innovative lightweight construction and an efficient driveline, which is geared to De Lijn's specific type of deployment, the Citea has a low net weight, making for excellent fuel economy and minimal emissions of harmful exhaust gases. This, in combination with a long service life, results in maximum 'Profit of Ownership'. The low floor construction at the doors makes it exceptionally easy to enter the bus and offers optimal access, for travellers with a baby buggy or wheelchair for example. Once on board, the Citea's light, inviting interior is the first thing one notices. The cantilever seat design (free-hanging seats) ensures plenty of leg room and therefore optimal sitting comfort.

VVM De Lijn

De Lijn is the commercial name of the Flemish public transport company (V.V.M.), 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 10,000 workers, approximately 8,000 of which are employed at V.V.M. De Lijn. The remaining 2,000 work for bus companies that provide service on behalf of V.V.M. De Lijn.

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 93 operating companies, spread over 19 countries with approximately 16,000 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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