

## PERSBERICHT

### **VDL Bus & Coach strengthens position in The Nordics**

**VDL Bus & Coach will further expand its leading position in Europe in the field of E-Mobility. At Busworld in Kortrijk, VDL Bus & Coach reached agreement to acquire the shares from the Swedish company Björks & Byberg in VDL Bus & Coach Nordic. VDL Groep's bus division held a minority shareholding in the sales organisation of buses in The Nordics for many years. VDL Bus & Coach will now take over the majority interest from Björks & Byberg.**

The agreement of intent states that the transaction will be completed before the end of 2017. VDL Bus & Coach Nordic, with subsidiaries in Sweden, Finland and Norway, employs approximately 60 people. The decision of VDL to take over the share package is a logical follow-up to the chosen strategy of being directly present in the major European bus markets. VDL Bus & Coach has announced last week, also on Busworld, that it would open its own branch in Spain this autumn.

“In order to be a transition partner to zero emission heavy-duty mobility as a next step and to offer complete customer solutions, also for our coach portfolio, it is crucial that VDL itself is located in the immediate vicinity of our customers”, says Henk Coppens, Managing Director of VDL Bus & Coach.

#### **Björks & Byberg**

Björks & Byberg is owned by Alan Björk, Tomas Byberg, Anders Lundström and Michael Wikström. The start of the collaboration between this Swedish company and VDL dates back more than twenty years. Alan Björk was involved from the very first hour. “The fact that we separated our division selling buses from our other activities involving approximately two thousand employees with this agreement is particularly good for VDL Bus & Coach”, says Alan Björk. “The transition from diesel to electric is a development that goes hand in hand with complex agreements, for example the charging infrastructure. This requires a great deal of knowledge, which VDL itself has in-house.”

#### **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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