

## PRESS RELEASE

### Europe's largest electric bus fleet in operation

Today, 28 March 2018, Connexxion, Transport Region Amsterdam and Schiphol presented Europe's largest electric bus fleet. On 1 April, 100 electric articulated VDL Citeas will be put in service at and around Schiphol Airport and on high-grade public transport lines within the Amstelland-Meerlanden concession. Over the past weeks the VDL Citeas SLFA Electric have been phased into scheduled service. All the electric buses have the latest battery technology, which meets the highest and most stringent European requirements.

Bart Schmeink, CEO Transdev Netherlands, says, "I am extremely proud of this huge accomplishment. Achieving this would not have been possible without the excellent collaboration with the Amsterdam Transport Region, the municipality of Amsterdam, Schiphol and VDL. With a concession and fleet like this, the municipality of Amsterdam is ready for the future."

#### Maximum deployment

These 100 electric articulated VDL Citeas will travel 30,000 km per day. The buses will be in service on six lines, 24 hours a day. Operational availability of the electric buses has been maximized through an optimized rapid charging concept. The batteries have an energy capacity of 169 kWh and can be charged with up to 420 kW power. This means that a fully discharged battery is recharged and ready for the next trip in 20 minutes or less. Charging downtime is therefore kept to a minimum. In addition to 23 Heliox rapid chargers (450 kW), located at 4 strategic charging points in the operation, there are 84 Heliox depot chargers (30 kW) at the depot. Each night the buses are slowly charged and pre-heated so they start operation the next morning with a full battery and comfortably warm interior. Charging is done via a pantograph on the roof of the buses. 2 Heliox mobile chargers (25 kW) are also used.

Ard Romers, director VDL Bus & Coach Nederland, says, "This past year we have taken big steps to further strengthen our position as E-Mobility transition partner. We learn daily from the various zero emission bus transport projects as well as the implementations and modelling of the various systems. Thanks to this experience we have now also succeeded in contributing to the successful transition within the Amstelland-Meerlanden concession. A major step has been taken to further the sustainability of public transport in this region."

#### R-Net and Schipholnet

2 different versions of the VDL Citea SLFA Electric have been delivered to Connexxion. The R-Net buses have a 3-door configuration in the standard Citea exterior and seat up to 50. These buses will be put in service on 4 high-frequency R-Net lines between Uithoorn, Amstelveen, Schiphol and the Amsterdam city centre.

The buses for Schipholnet will operate on 12 lines at and around Schiphol. These buses have been built in the futuristic BRT design. The 4<sup>th</sup> door in this version further optimizes the passenger flow on these buses.

All the buses have a spacious driver's cockpit. The driver is optimally informed about the driving performance and current status of the vehicle via the standard digital electronic interface cluster. Passengers enjoy the additional luxury of comfortable deluxe seats, Wi-Fi and USB connections.

### **Implementation and system responsibility**

VDL also played an important role in the project management involved in the implementation of the electric bus fleet. To provide a virtually turnkey solution, Connexxion, VDL and Heliox cooperated closely from the time the contract was awarded. From the very beginning they looked beyond just the practical implementation and considered where the best opportunities for infrastructure development could be found. VDL Bus & Coach also bears overall responsibility for the fleet systems. In this type of complex project, close cooperation between various parties is an absolute prerequisite for successful implementation.

Connexxion and VDL had already worked together successfully during the introduction of the 43 electric articulated Citeas in Eindhoven. Since 11 December 2016 every bus has travelled 350 kilometres per day. Altogether the 43 buses have driven nearly 4 million kilometres. The operational advantages of high-performance battery technology in combination with quick charging solutions have already been demonstrated there.

### **Environmental impact**

With the deployment of these zero-emission buses, the public transport at and around Schiphol is now much more environmentally friendly. The buses emit no harmful substances and make much less noise than regular buses. The Amstelland-Meerlands concession runs until 11 December 2027. The 100 electric buses currently deployed are the first phase of a transition to a total of 258 zero emission buses in 2021.

### **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 95 operating companies, spread over 20 countries with more than 16,000 employees and an annual turnover of 5.049 billion euros in 2017. The strength of VDL Groep lies in the mutual cooperation between the companies.

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