

PRESS RELEASE

146 VDL Citeas for Flemish public transport company De Lijn

Flemish public transport company De Lijn has ordered 146 buses from VDL Bus & Coach. The order consists of 3 different types, namely 7 Citeas SLF-120 Electric, 84 Citeas SLE-120 Hybrid and 55 articulated Citeas SLFA-180 in diesel version. This order will be the first time VDL has delivered electric buses to De Lijn. The 84 hybrid buses are a follow-up order to the 66 Citeas SLE Hybrid ordered in October 2017. The buses will be delivered in the first half of 2019.

“We are proud that with this extensive order our long relationship continues, now also in the area of E-Mobility, and that we have this opportunity to contribute to sustainable public transport in Flanders. We look forward to seeing the electric VDL Citeas become part of the daily street scene,” says Filip Malefason, managing director VDL Bus & Coach Belgium.

VDL Citea SLF-120 Electric

The VDL Citea SLF-120 Electric has a length of 12 metres, is powered by an 85 kWh battery and has room for 92 passengers. VDL Bus & Coach will also provide the charging infrastructure. The charging points will be provided in collaboration with ABB. The buses will be deployed in Ghent and Leuven. A 300 kW rapid charger (on the bus line) and 40 kW depot chargers will be installed in these cities to ensure the electric buses can be in service throughout the day. The Citea SLF-120 Electric is known for its modular concept, which allows versions to be built for all the various types of deployment and local requirements packages. The lightweight concept of the VDL Citea Electric keeps the operating costs very low and ensures maximum ‘Profit of Ownership’. The quiet, clean e-buses also contribute to a healthier living environment and improved quality of life for the residents.

VDL Citea SLE-120 Hybrid

The Citea SLE-120 Hybrid has a length of 12 metres and is equipped with a serial hybrid system with stop-and-go function. The vehicles for De Lijn are programmed such that they can drive off from traffic lights and bus stops using 100% electric power. The concept of this Citea SLE Hybrid is modularly adaptable so that longer routes can also be driven. Through use of an inverted pantograph and a larger battery pack, the electric autonomy can be extended further.

VDL Citea SLFA-180

The Citea SLFA-180 has a length of 18 metres, seats for 47 passengers, standing room for 114 and is equipped with a Euro 6 FPT engine. With its innovative lightweight construction and efficient powertrain, which is configured to the specific deployment of De Lijn, the VDL Citea SLFA has a low kerb weight, resulting in good fuel economy and low emissions of harmful substances. Combined with a long service life this results in maximum ‘Profit of Ownership’.

Flemish public transport company De Lijn

De Lijn is the commercial name of the Flemish public transport company, which provides the bus and tram service in Flanders. About 3.8 million people make use of De Lijn's services at least once a year. For its operation, the transport company receives an annual allocation from the Flemish Region, the primary shareholder. The sale of tickets is the second most important source of income. The De Lijn network spans approximately 1000 lines and 36,000 stops. Altogether the buses and trams make around 11 million runs per year. Together with private operators that work under contract to De Lijn, approximately 4100 vehicles are deployed: 418 trams and 3700 buses. With over 8000 employees De Lijn is one of the country's largest employers. More than an additional 2000 people work for the private operators.

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 aftersales 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 98 operating companies, spread over 20 countries with more than 17,000 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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