

Media release

HOLD-BACK PERIOD:	none
DOCUMENT	2
ENCLOSURES	photos

Berlin, 21 September 2016

Stadler presents the first Variobahn for Aarhus (Denmark)

Stadler and Aarhus Letbane I/S jointly presented today at InnoTrans the first Variobahn produced for Aarhus. The order includes 14 Variobahn light rail vehicles and 12 Tango tram-train vehicles. In addition to the production of Variobahns, Stadler will also take over the maintenance of the vehicles for the next six years in Aarhus.

Aarhus, the second largest city in Denmark, is the first town in the history of the country to build a completely new tramway-system. In this project Stadler delivers 26 vehicles: 14 Variobahn light rail vehicles and also 12 Tango tram-train vehicles for operation in Aarhus. Stadler is presenting the low-floor Variobahn, developed specifically for this project, to the international audience at InnoTrans for the first time.

„We are very proud of this order, which is the first in the segment of urban trams from our neighbor country Denmark“, said Ulf Braker, Managing Director of Stadler Pankow GmbH. „This order confirms to us that with the Variobahn we have developed a state-of-the-art, powerful and flexible product. We are convinced that this vehicle will meet the high Scandinavian expectations for a modern, comfortable and economical tram. The tram, which bears any comparison in the world, is standing today here in front of you.“

Claus Rehfeld, CEO of Aarhus Letbane I/S added: „The cooperation with Stadler is running very well and professional, and we are very satisfied with the final design and quality of the light rail vehicles. Aarhus is developing Denmark’s first tramway system, introducing a modern tram- and tram-train system as part of the solution to the challenges posed by rapid growth of the city-region of Eastern Jutland. The first line in Aarhus will open in 2017, same year Aarhus is Cultural Capital of Europe.“

The first Variobahn is already in Aarhus for type and integration testing. In addition to the production of Variobahn, Stadler will also take over the maintenance of the vehicles for the next six years in Aarhus.

The low-floor Variobahn is a modular and very flexible design in terms of length, width, gauge and also the catenary voltage. The top speed of the vehicle is 80 km/h. The standard-gauge (1435 mm) bi-directional vehicles produced for Aarhus have four doors on both sides. The vehicles can carry 84 seated and 132 standing passengers. Passenger areas and driver's cabs are air-conditioned, passengers may also use WIFI.

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About the Stadler Rail Group

Stadler has been building trains for 75 years. The system provider of rail vehicle construction solutions is headquartered in Bussnang in Eastern Switzerland, and has a workforce of around 7000 based in various locations across Switzerland, Germany, Spain, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Italy, Austria, the Netherlands, Belarus, Algeria, Australia and the United States. Stadler provides a comprehensive range of products in the railway and commuter rail segments: high-speed trains, intercity trains, regional and commuter rail trains, underground trains, tram trains and light rail vehicles. In addition, Stadler manufactures main-line dual-mode locomotives, shunting locomotives and passenger carriages, including the most powerful diesel-electric locomotive in Europe. Stadler remains the world's leading manufacturer in the rack-and-pinion rail vehicle industry. Additionally, Stadler Service maintains in 16 countries vehicle fleets consisting of over 680 vehicles that cover a combined annual distance of 110 million kilometres.

In 2016, Stadler was part of a historic event when the Gotthard Base Tunnel, the longest train tunnel in the world, officially opened in June. From 2019 onwards, the new Giruno trains, which Stadler has developed and is manufacturing specifically for use in the tunnel, will carry passengers from Zurich to Milan, and later from Frankfurt to Milan, in record time.

More Stadler figures: The best-selling FLIRT (Fast Light Innovative Regional Train) vehicle has already sold over 1200 units in a total of 17 countries. The KISS vehicle (the name is an acronym of the German for comfortable innovative speedy suburban train) is also very popular: it has sold 258 units in 9 countries. The most powerful diesel-electric locomotive in Europe, the EURO 4000, has sold 130 units in 7 countries.

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