

Media release

HOLD-BACK PERIOD none
DOCUMENT 2 pages
ENCLOSURES none

Liverpool, 4 October 2017

**Key Milestone in the New Trains Project
as Engineering Staff Transfer to Stadler from Merseyrail**

Stadler has taken over the entire maintenance responsibility of the current fleet of Merseytravel. The employees – maintenance workforce and exterior cleaning team – from Merseyrail’s engineering department move over to Stadler, builders of the new Merseyrail trains set to enter service by 2020. The transfer officially took place on 1 October 2017.

Stadler was awarded the contract to build and maintain the new fleet of 52 metro trains for the Liverpool City Region at the end of the year. The total value of the agreements, including the depot construction work, amounts to £700 million.

Stadler Service in Liverpool employs the maintenance staff undertaking various train maintenance activities on behalf of Merseyrail. The main maintenance location is Birkenhead North depot where the daily running maintenance, unit repairs and planned heavy overhauls are undertaken. In addition daily on train cleaning activities are completed on nights. The main train stabling depot at Kirkdale holds approximately 30 trains every night where the majority of the on board train cleaning activities are completed in addition to external train cleaning through the train wash plant. There are then additional out based train cleaning and maintenance activities that take place around the network at stations.

This transfer of staff is one of the stages in the process to introduce the new trains. A few weeks ago, Warrington-based BAM Nuttall started the enabling work for the new depot at Kirkdale, with construction beginning in October.

Hein van der Schoot, Managing Director Stadler Service UK, said:

‘The transfer of the entire maintenance business of the current fleet is a significant development in this project, and we welcome each and every one of them to our organisation. Moving people from one company to another is a highly sensitive task. Rest assured, we are committed to handling it carefully and are working hard to make the transition as smooth as possible. We look forward to welcome our new colleagues in the Stadler family.’

Jan Chaudhry-van der Velde, Merseyrail’s managing director, commented:

‘The transfer of our engineering and depot staff to Stadler is another significant milestone towards the delivery of new trains in 2020. I would like to place on record Merseyrail’s heartfelt appreciation for the achievements of this group of staff during the time they have been looking after our fleet of trains – many of these people have been part of the Merseyrail workforce since the company’s inception. While I wish them well with their new employer, Stadler and Merseyrail will be working very closely in future.’

Notes to the Editor

About Stadler

Established 75 years ago, headquartered in Bussnang, Switzerland, and operating globally with over 7000 employees in 18 countries, Stadler is a system provider of train manufacturing and maintenance services.

Stadler's range of products is comprehensive. It includes high speed trains, intercity, regional and commuter trains, trams, tram-trains and underground trains. Stadler manufactures dual mode locomotives, shunting locomotives and passenger carriages, and offers the most powerful diesel-electric locomotive in Europe, the EURO4000. It remains the world's leading manufacturer of rack and pinion rail vehicles. Stadler's service division maintains vehicle fleets in 16 countries.

In the UK, Stadler's Variobahn trams operate on the London Tramlink and its Class 68 and Class 88 hybrid locomotives are used on freight and passenger services. It has recently been awarded a contract to build electric and bi-mode multiple units for the new East Anglia franchise, part of the largest ever rolling stock procurement in the history of the UK, and is providing the vehicles for the Sheffield tram-train, the first of its kind in the UK. It is also part of the consortium supplying a new fleet of trains for the Glasgow Subway.

You can find out more at www.stadlerrail.com/en/

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TUPE

TUPE stands for Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006. It protects employees' terms and conditions on transfer from one employer to the other.

TUPE is a significant piece of employment legislation adopted by the UK to comply with European law. The regulations are there to protect employees' rights if the organisation they work for, or the service they provide, transfers from one business to another.

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