

Press release

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Stadler to build first hydrogen trains for Sicily

Stadler expands its presence in Italy and signs first contract with Ferrovie Circumetnea (FCE) for the design and supply of two narrow-gauge hydrogen-powered trains. The new vehicles will contribute to sustainable rail transport and will run through the volcanic landscapes of Mount Etna.

"It is a great pleasure for us to realise this project and build the first two narrow-gauge hydrogen-powered trains for Sicily. The trains ordered by FCE will contribute to the decarbonisation of Italian rail transport in a new region and expand Stadler's presence in the Italian market. We thank FCE for the trust they have placed in us and for joining us as part of the Italian Green Technology Team", said Maurizio Oberti, Stadler's Sales & Marketing Director for Italy.

At EXPO Ferroviaria, an international trade fair dedicated to the railway industry held last week in Milan, Stadler and the transport company Ferrovie Circumetnea (FCE) signed the first contract for the design and supply of two narrow-gauge hydrogen-powered trains.

The agreement signed following the award of the public tender launched by FCE provides for the possibility of supplying a further 13 vehicles of the same type. The supply of the first two trains also includes five years of full service and technical spare parts.

Technical features of the new trains

The new hydrogen-powered vehicles will be designed and built at Stadler's headquarters in Bussnang, in the canton of Thurgau, Switzerland.

Each hydrogen train consists of two passenger coaches and a central "Power Pack" unit containing the fuel cells and hydrogen tanks.

The trains have 87 seats and can carry a total of 147 passengers. The train also has a low-floor access to allow passengers with reduced mobility and elderly people to easily get on board. It is equipped with a universal PRM toilet and areas for passengers with bicycles and/or pushchairs.

The particularly low axle load of less than 11 tons per axle allows the trains to run on the entire narrow-gauge network operated by FCE.

The trains will run along Etna Nature Park

Particular attention has been paid to the traction system, considering the steep gradients that characterise the Circumetnea line. The static converters and traction batteries are positioned above the motor bogies to ensure excellent grip and optimal traction effort in all weather conditions.

The new trains are intended to run on the Paternò - Randazzo route, which winds through the Etna Nature Park.

19 hydrogen trains for the Italian market

The new order from FCE brings the total number of Stadler narrow-gauge hydrogen trains for the Italian market to 19. The trains were ordered by three different customers in three regions of Italy: 8 vehicles from ARST (Sardinia region) and 9 from FdC (Calabria region). These are the world's first tailor-made narrow-gauge trains powered by hydrogen and fuel cells.

*Photo caption (f.l.t.r): **Ing. Maurizio Oberti**, Sales & Marketing Director for Italy at Stadler, **Dr Ansgar Brockmeyer**, Executive Vice President Marketing & Sales at Stadler, **Dr Angelo Mautone**, General Director Ministry of infrastructures and transport (MIT), **Ing. Salvatore Fiore**, General Director at FCE, **Dr Marcovalerio Pozzato**, President of the Court of Auditors, **Ing. Daniele Zito**, Technical Manager at FCE*

About Stadler

Stadler has been manufacturing trains for over 80 years. The company, which offers mobility solutions specialising in the construction of railway vehicles, maintenance and signalling technology, is based in Bussnang, in eastern Switzerland. More than 16,600 employees, including over 5,600 in Switzerland, work in eight production plants and six engineering centres, as well as in over 80 vehicle maintenance centres. The company is aware of its social responsibility for sustainable mobility and is therefore synonymous with innovative, sustainable and durable quality products. The product range in the railway and urban transport sector includes high-speed trains, intercity trains, regional trains and S-Bahn trains, underground trains, tram-trains and trams. Stadler also manufactures mainline locomotives, shunting locomotives and passenger carriages. Stadler is the world's leading manufacturer of rack railway vehicles.

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