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MEDIA RELEASE

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New GKB train in Berlin

At the InnoTrans trade fair in Berlin today, Provincial Government Councillor Mag.^a Kristina Edlinger-Ploder, Mag. Franz Weintögl, General Director of Graz-Köflacher Bahn und Busbetrieb GmbH (GKB), and Peter Jenelten, Executive Vice President Marketing and Sales of Stadler Rail, presented with great pride the GKB articulated multiple-unit train (GTW) to the public. Councillor Edlinger-Ploder expressed her delight that it has been possible to procure this modern train for Styria on time. The GKB train is an enhancement of the fourth GTW generation. Stadler Rail designed and built the vehicle within just 18 months of the order for 13 diesel-electric GTWs being placed.

GKB based on the successful GTW model

Increasing passenger numbers and the age of the multiple-unit trains currently in service mean that new GKBs are needed. The trains will start service from the next timetable change in December until the middle of next year on the Graz–Köflach and Graz–Wies–Eibiswald routes. The order is worth around EUR 50 million. The Styria state will pay for 25% of the procurement costs.

Provincial Government Councillor Mag.^a Kristina Edlinger-Ploder is delighted about the new trains: *“In the last few years, we have invested a great deal to transform transport in the State of Styria into mobility. Above all, it is about offering people something and not constantly using prohibition (as a tool to reduce traffic). We want to challenge car traffic directly, and although some car journeys will always be important, in future we will choose the best form of transport for a particular journey more selectively and with more thought. The purchase of these trains is an important step in tempting people to use the train – comfort. For this reason, I am very happy that we are combining this investment with the extended timetable – presenting both almost at the same time – so that we can make clearly noticeable progress for all our passengers. A big thank you to everyone involved, especially Stadler and GKB, who are after all responsible for the success of this major project. Together we want to continue making rapid progress in environmentally friendly mobility.”*

Mag. Franz Weintögl, General Director of GKB, is proud of the new vehicles: *“The new multiple-unit trains mean GKB will also serve the route Deutschlandsberg–Wettmannstätten–Graz via the*



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Koralmbahn. Passengers in the western Styria region will have the highest quality local rail transport in Austria.”

The trains for GKB are an enhancement of the fourth GTW generation, which has been successfully in operation for Arriva in Holland since 2006. Peter Jenelten, Executive Vice President Marketing and Sales of Stadler Rail, is delighted with this latest vehicle from the GTW family. “So far we have sold 539 GTWs in ten different countries. Just since the order from GKB, more than 80 further GTWs have been ordered at Stadler. By delivering the first vehicles to GKB within 18 months of signing the contract, Stadler Rail proves once again its capacity for performance.”

Modern and comfortable vehicle

The vehicles ordered by GKB are essentially based on the proven design of Stadler GTW. The trains are air-conditioned, have a disabled access closed WC system and are over 75% low-floored. Each train offers 141 seats and 13 folding seats in the light passenger compartments with large windows. Up to four trains can travel together in multiple-unit operation. The vehicles are manufactured with a lightweight aluminium structure and therefore have a low weight. This permits swift acceleration and lowers the operating costs.

Stadler Rail Group

Stadler Rail Group, system supplier of customer-specific solutions for rail vehicle construction, has locations in Switzerland (Altenrhein, Bussnang and Winterthur), in Germany (Berlin-Pankow and Velten), in Poland (Siedlce), in Hungary (Budapest, Pusztaszabolcs and Szolnok), in the Czech Republic (Prague), in Italy (Merano) and in Algeria (Algiers). The Group has a workforce of over 3,000 people around the world. The best-known vehicle series from Stadler Rail Group are the articulated multiple-unit trains GTW (539 trains sold), the Regio-Shuttle RS1 (450 trains sold), the FLIRT (618 trains sold), the double-decker multiple-unit train KISS (125 trains sold) in the railway segment, and the Variobahn (284 trains sold) and the newly-developed Tango (122 trains sold) in the tram segment. Furthermore Stadler Rail manufactures passenger carriages and locomotives and is the world’s leading manufacturer of rack-and-pinion rail vehicles.

Graz-Köflacher Bahn und Busbetrieb GmbH

The Graz-Köflacher Bahn und Busbetrieb GmbH (GKB) transports around four million passengers by rail and six million passengers by bus every year. It is the largest and most important partner in the Styria public transport network. Simple and cheap tariffs make GKB attractive. The bus stops and stations are inviting, the buses are matched to the train



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connections, and the stations have Park & Ride facilities. The liberalisation of rail transport throughout Europe brings new challenges to GKB as well as new opportunities regarding the type and scope of future transport requirements in passenger and goods transport. GKB has freed itself from its geographical limitations and will offer its services in areas and regions far beyond the GKB network. The “western Styria railway” has become a habitually reliable, modern transport company, operating nationwide.

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