

MEDIA RELEASE

Minsk, 22 March 2011

Stadler's FLIRT rolls in to Belarus

Today saw the roll-in of the first two of ten FLIRTs (Fast Light Innovative Regional Trains) in Minsk, for Belarus State Railways BŽD. Delivery was possible in less than one year from signature of the contract, due to simultaneous production of a near-identical FLIRT for Helsinki at Stadler's Bussnang site. In the margin of the celebration Peter Spuhler, owner and CEO of Stadler Rail Group, and Anatoly Alexandrovich Sivak, Chief Executive of BŽD, signed a declaration of intent for the procurement of further vehicles and cooperation in the service sector.

Stadler's first order from a CIS state

Peter Spuhler was jubilant in Minsk today at the roll-in ceremony: "I am so proud that our FLIRT will now serve Belarus too. This is the first time that Stadler has supplied vehicles to a country of the former Soviet Union. We discern great potential in the Commonwealth of Independent States, as we have our Helsinki-type FLIRT to offer. This modern broad-gauge train¹ is suitable for temperatures as low as -40 degrees Celsius." Stadler is currently working on a broad-gauge order from Estonia for 38 FLIRTs. 656 FLIRTs have already been sold, in 13 different countries.

Technically, the trains for BŽD are largely based on the FLIRT for Helsinki. They are being built in two versions: six FLIRTs will serve the conventional commuter railway system of the capital of Belarus, Minsk. These high-capacity trains seat 232. The other four FLIRTs are destined for inter-regional transport between major cities. Given the longer journey times, these offer more comfortable and elaborate interior fittings. Hence seating capacity is only 188.

Stadler Rail Group

Stadler Rail Group, system supplier of customer-specific solutions for rail vehicle construction, has locations in Switzerland (Altenrhein, Bussnang, Winterthur and Biel), in Germany (Berlin-Pankow, Berlin-Hohenschönhausen, Berlin-Reinickendorf and Velten), in Poland, in Hungary, in the Czech Republic, in Italy and in Algeria. The Group has a workforce of over 3,500 people around the world. The best-known vehicle series from Stadler Rail Group are the articulated multiple-unit trains GTW (551 trains sold), the Regio-Shuttle RS1 (491 trains sold), the FLIRT

¹ The broad gauge in Belarus measures 1,520 mm, whereas the standard gauge in Europe is 1,435 mm. Vehicle widths are also significantly greater in Finland and Belarus (3,200 mm) than in most European countries (2,800 mm).

(656 trains sold), the double-decker multiple-unit train KISS (133 trains sold) in the railway segment, and the Variobahn (284 trains sold) and the newly developed Tango (101 trains sold) in the tram segment. Furthermore, Stadler Rail manufactures metre-gauge trains, passenger carriages and locomotives and is the world's leading manufacturer of rack-and-pinion rail vehicles.

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