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Stadler sells gauge changing facility for the city of Akhalkalaki in Georgia

Stadler today signed a contract in Bussnang with the Georgian company Marabda-Kartsakhi-Railway LCC for the delivery of a gauge changing facility. The system will be installed in the Georgian city of Akhalkalaki near the border with Turkey and will form part of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway, which links the countries of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey. Special tracks need to be fitted over a distance of 30 metres to enable trains to switch from the European standard gauge to the broad gauge used in the countries of the former Soviet Union.

The gauge changing facility is suitable for rail vehicles with DB AG/Rafil Type V wheelsets produced by Bochumer Verein Verkehrstechnik GmbH in Ilsenburg. This technology was authorised by the German Federal Railway Authority (EBA) in 2006.

In 2014 Stadler received an order for the delivery of 30 sleeper and dining cars from Azerbaijan national railways (ADY). These cars are intended for use on the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars-Istanbul route and are therefore equipped with DB AG/Rafil Type V wheelsets.

Installing this gauge changing facility is the only way to allow completion of the journey from Baku to Istanbul without interruption. Regular services are scheduled to start in the summer of 2019.

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About Stadler

International rail vehicle construction company, Stadler, is headquartered in Bussnang in Eastern Switzerland. Founded in 1942, it has a workforce of over 7,600 based in various production, service and engineering locations across Switzerland, Germany, Spain, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Belarus and the United States. Service locations are also being operated in countries including Algeria, Denmark, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the UK. Stadler provides a comprehensive range of products in the heavy and urban transport segments: high-speed trains, intercity trains, regional and commuter heavy rail trains, underground trains, tram trains and trams. Stadler also manufactures main-line locomotives, shunting locomotives and passenger carriages, including the most powerful diesel-electric locomotive in Europe. It is the world's leading manufacturer in the rack-and-pinion rail vehicle industry.

The best-selling FLIRT (Fast Light Intercity- and Regional Train) vehicle has already sold more than 1,500 units in a total of 18 countries. The KISS, an acronym of the German for Comfortable Innovative Speedy Suburban Train, is also very popular, with nearly 300 units sold in 11 countries. The most powerful diesel-electric locomotive in Europe is the EURO4000, which has sold 140 units in 7 countries. The Stadler Service division maintains vehicle fleets and comprises more than 680 vehicles, covering a combined annual distance of 120 million kilometres in 16 different countries.

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