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Stadler wins the first order in France for its innovative generation of locomotives

The rolling stock supplier Stadler, the French rail freight operator VFLI and the leasing company Alpha Trains have signed the purchase contracts for the first 12 EURO4001 diesel-electric locomotives and the prototype of the EURODUAL bi-mode locomotive. Both models are part of the new generation of six-axle locomotives developed by Stadler in Valencia for the European market. The 13 new locomotives will be used by VFLI in rail freight transport services in France and Belgium.

The French rail freight operator VFLI, a subsidiary of SNCF, has been using locomotives from Stadler since 2013 for its freight transport services, currently has a fleet of 19 EURO4000 locomotives; the last ones were delivered at the end of 2017. With these new contracts, VFLI becomes the first French customer of the new generation of Co'Co' locomotives designed and manufactured by Stadler in its Albuixech plant with the aim of optimizing rail freight transport in Europe.

The leasing company Alpha Trains has an existing fleet of 30 EURO4000 locomotives operated by different rail freight operators in Spain and Portugal. It is now expanding its business in France with the leasing of further locomotives from Stadler.

The EURODUAL is the technological response of Stadler to the challenges posed by cross-border corridors such as the Mediterranean or the Atlantic Corridors. Iñigo Parra, CEO of Stadler Valencia, emphasized the importance of the project and the advantages of the new platform: "The EURODUAL locomotive is the result of many years and resources invested in R + D + I. With its avant-garde technology, it covers every need in an efficient and reliable way offering rail operators numerous economic and ecological benefits."

One of the contracts includes the acquisition by VFLI of the prototype of the EURODUAL locomotive that Stadler is using for the homologation of this new platform in France and Belgium. This versatile locomotive offers two solutions in one combining to operations modes: electric and diesel. It can run on electrified lines at 25kV AC and at 1.5kV DC with a power of up to 7000kW but it is also powered by an IIIB engine rated at 2,800 kW to run on non-electrified lines. Due to its high power and tractive effort and its state-of-the-art adhesion control system, it can transport longer and heavier trains with a single locomotive, with the operative flexibility offered by high-power diesel traction and the environmental benefits of the electric traction.

The contracts also include the supply of 12 diesel-electric locomotives type EURO4001, 3 are acquired directly by VFLI and 9 are acquired by Alpha Trains to be used by VFLI. As a successor to the successful EURO4000 locomotive, the EURO4001 diesel-electric locomotive has inherited incredible performance and reliability. It is a six-axle diesel-electric locomotive with AC/AC transmission and an engine rated at 2800kW that meets the

EC 26/2004 Stage IIIB and Stage V emission levels required in Europe as prime mover. The powerful locomotive offers flexibility, high hauling capacity, low energy consumption and reduced operational costs.

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About Stadler

Stadler has been building trains for 75 years. The system provider of rail vehicle construction solutions is headquartered in Bussnang in Eastern Switzerland, and has a workforce of over 7000 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 rail trains, underground trains, tram trains and trams. Furthermore, Stadler also manufactures main-line locomotives, shunting locomotives and passenger carriages, including the most powerful diesel-electric locomotive in Europe. Stadler is the world's leading manufacturer in the rack-and-pinion rail vehicle industry.

More Stadler figures: The best-selling FLIRT (Fast Light Intercity- and Regional Train) vehicle has already sold over 1400 units in a total of 17 countries. The KISS (the name is an acronym of the German for Comfortable Innovative Speedy Suburban Train) is also very popular: It has sold 271 units in 10 countries. The most powerful diesel-electric locomotive in Europe, the EURO4000, has sold 140 units in 7 countries. Additionally, Stadler Service maintains vehicle fleets comprising over 680 vehicles that cover a combined annual distance of 120 million kilometers in 16 different countries.

About VFLI

Since its creation in 1998, VFLI, a subsidiary of the French state rail operator SNCF, has become a leading player on the rail freight market. A dynamic company that enjoys sustained growth, VFLI employs some 900 staff who each day focus their efforts on meeting the demands of their customers in terms of safety, quality and responsiveness in order to provide them with tailor-made transport solutions. VFLI mobilizes its wide-ranging know-how and sense of professionalism to incite users to opt for rail transport as their preferred means of freight forwarding.

Each day, VFLI operates some 60 trains on the French national rail network (RFN) while also managing rail-related logistics for its customers' industrial sites and providing know-how, rolling stock and heavy machinery for companies performing railway maintenance.

With a strong presence in terms of wholly-operated trains and regular traffic flows, VFLI also boasts a strong organizational capability for delivering spot train solutions and is a proven provider of local transportation facilities to enable multimodal users to easily switch from road to rail.

With a constant focus on reducing its carbon footprint, VFLI is always seeking to optimize its transport plans in order to ensure that they are as environment-friendly as possible.

In 2017, VFLI transported over 3.7 billion tonne-kilometres of goods and generated turnover of € 154.5 million, an increase of 5% on the previous year.

In 2018, VFLI is pursuing its sustained growth strategy; following on from the integration of Ecorail Transport, the company is also planning to recruit and train over 100 train drivers and ground operations staff.

About Alpha Trains

Alpha Trains is the leading rolling stock lessor in Continental Europe. Around 100 employees from 11 countries work in offices in Luxembourg, Antwerp, Cologne, Madrid and Paris. Alpha Trains owns 435 passenger trains and 370 locomotives and offers tailor-made leasing solutions, comprehensive know-how in maintenance and vehicle repairs as well as long-term experience in the financing of new build projects. Alpha Trains' fleets are in use by many public and private operators in 15 European countries. Alpha Trains' shareholders are Arcus Infrastructure Fund, AMP Capital and Public Sector Pension Investment Board (PSP Investment).

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