

Media release

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Stadler and RBS present a train full of ideas

Stadler is today presenting its electric multiple unit for the S7 line between Berne and Worb in association with RBS. The one-metre gauge vehicles will run according to a fast-paced timetable. They have been precisely tailored to meet the needs of this extremely busy route and its passengers. Even before launching its invitation to tender, RBS invited passengers to take part in a competition and submit their ideas for the trains. The new S7 for RBS is further proof of Stadler's ability to combine input from passengers and rail operators into a unique vehicle that is genuinely tailor-made.

In June 2016 Regionalverkehr Bern-Solothurn (RBS) has ordered 14 four-car regional trains for the S7 line between Berne and Worb. The four-car electric multiple-units, which are walkable along their entire length, are designed to be operated at a maximum speed of 100 km/h. The train can seat 130 passengers and offers standing room for a further 380 people on a journey which takes an average of ten minutes. The fully redundant traction system, including redundant control technology, guarantees high availability and low lifecycle costs.

The new vehicle, christened Worbla, is full of innovations. The train is fitted with eight instead of six pairs of doors along the 60 metres of its length. By way of comparison, the same number of doors are spread over a length of 80 metres on the four-car FLIRT train. This new feature on the Swiss one-metre gauge market will allow passengers to board and alight more quickly. This is a particular advantage on the S7 line, which is the busiest on Berne's entire regional network, and will help to ensure that the seven-and-a-half minute pace can be respected on the route between Berne and Bolligen. There is also a great deal more standing room available in the entrance area. This will give passengers with pushchairs, wheeled cases or wheelchairs more space when boarding or alighting. The vehicle complies fully with the Swiss Federal Act on Equal Rights for People with Disabilities (BeHiG).

Digital intelligence

The Worbla includes a variety of digital innovations. A door sensor is fitted above each entrance door. It detects when passengers want to board, and opens the doors automatically without them having to press a button. This will be particularly appreciated by anyone carrying luggage or travelling with children. Provided that the train is at a platform and that boarding is still permitted, green LEDs remain lit at the side of the door panels. Just before the train sets off, the green lights change to red, indicating that it is too late to board. The handrails next to the doors and stairs inside the train also have lights, and passengers will enjoy good mobile reception thanks to the windows that can be easily penetrated by wireless signals. A passenger information system that

has been optimized for RBS, with five screens per car, provides constant information about the route and connections.

Passenger involvement

RBS involved its passengers in the procurement process for the new trains at an early stage and was able to collect valuable input. Members of the public were given the opportunity to share their ideas on the train's design and interior fittings during a competition held in several stages in the autumn of 2014. Almost 700 ideas were submitted, some of which were integrated into the design specifications and ultimately implemented in the vehicles. Examples include the lights showing the status of the doors, power outlets in the side wall tables, and rails fitted in combination with the tip-up seats. The vehicle name was also suggested by the public: "Worbla" was chosen during a naming competition which attracted thousands of participants.

The authorization tests have started in August 2018. The first Worbla will begin scheduled operations at the end of 2018. By the end of 2019, all the new S7 vehicles will be in operation to replace the old "Mandarinli" trains.

Images of the vehicle presentation can be found via this link from 2 p.m.: <https://goo.gl/h3wu1G>

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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 1,600 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.

About RBS

RBS is part of Switzerland's public transport system and the Berne regional train system. Each year it transports 26.31 million passengers on four train lines and 19 bus lines. It employs around 440 members of staff.

RBS routes are among the busiest in Switzerland. The large number of passengers and very tight timetable demand a great deal of commitment from all employees.

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