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DOCUMENT 2 pages
ENCLOSURES 1 rendering

Media release

Bussnang, 3 June 2019

Stadler wins contract for eight FLIRT for Texas

Stadler wins the contract for eight trains of the model FLIRT for the Cotton Belt Project in Texas. Start of passenger service is anticipated for end of 2022. The contract value is estimated at 119 million US Dollars.

The Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) has awarded Stadler for the contract to assemble and build eight FLIRT and for the design of an Equipment Maintenance Facility (EMF) for the Cotton Belt Regional Rail Project. The contract for the diesel multiple unit trains is valued at approximately 119 million US Dollars. According to the contract DART anticipate the trains to go into passenger service by the end of 2022.

The new vehicles Stadler is designing for DART have the ability to transport 240 seated passengers and 225 standing passengers and are fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). To ensure safety for all guests, Stadler plans to install a comprehensive CCTV system on each train. In addition, the trains are to be equipped with an automatic passenger counting system, which can count the number of passengers boarding and alighting the train at each stop, can detect huddling of passengers in certain areas of the train as well as blockages of boarding areas.

The FLIRT for DART is self-propelled by a diesel multiple unit (DMU) and meets both tier 4 EPA emissions standards and FRA Standards. Each train set consists of 4 units, plus a power pack in the middle, which houses the power unit. This setup includes four powered axles and eight unpowered axles. This puts the trains at approximately 267 feet in length.

According to the contract, Stadler will provide input and past experiences to engineering company Urban Engineers, who is contracted for their design services for the planned EMF.

This is the fourth contract for Stadler in Texas so far. Operators such as CapMetro in Austin, Denton County Transportation Authority in Lewisville and TEXRail in Fort Worth are already successfully in revenue service with Stadler trains.

«After completing several projects in Texas already, Stadler is honored to now also supply DART with new state-of-the-art trains. We are proud that DART has chosen our FLIRT and know that we will be able to deliver a product that satisfies the customer to the highest degree», said Martin Ritter, CEO of Stadler US Inc.

«It's been a pleasure working with Stadler US, Inc. on the design and specifications of our new Cotton Belt regional rail project trains», said John Rhone, DART VP of Capital Design and Construction. «Their focus on technology innovation and design promises to provide our customers with the safe and enjoyable ride they've come to expect from DART.»

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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 8,500 based in various production and over 40 service locations. 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.

About DART

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) is the public transit agency for Dallas and 12 surrounding North Texas cities. It operates a multi-modal network of buses, light rail, commuter rail and paratransit. It is a global leader in the emerging field of Mobility as a Service (MaaS) which incorporates smartphone technology into fare payment and trip planning and scheduling and greater use of smaller vehicles.

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