

Media release

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KVB orders 132 high-floor light rail vehicles from Stadler

Technological innovation for Cologne's local transport: Kölner Verkehrs-Betriebe (KVB) is set to significantly modernise its light rail fleet in the coming years and has commissioned Swiss company Stadler to build 132 high-floor light rail vehicles. The order is worth just under 700 million euros. The first vehicles are scheduled for delivery in 2029.

The new trains are precisely tailored to Cologne's light rail network. One of their special features is that two trains can be connected to form a continuous train via a quick-release coupling. The order also includes 34 ten-metre-long intermediate modules that will enable the trains to be extended to around 70 metres. In this configuration, they will offer space for up to 470 passengers, significantly exceeding the capacity of the previous vehicle series and allowing more efficient use of the infrastructure.

Stefanie Haaks, KVB CEO: "Positive signal for the mobility transition"

"The city council's approval of this important project gives us planning security. In view of a challenging budget situation, we are very grateful for the financial support, which sends a positive signal for the implementation of the mobility transition and strong public transport. Both our passengers and drivers can look forward to modern trams and a high level of comfort," says KVB CEO Stefanie Haaks.

The vehicles will be state-of-the-art in terms of technology. The driver's cab offers excellent all-round visibility, an assistance system warns of collisions and a rear-view mirror video system eliminates blind spots. The displays in the cockpit automatically adjust to the ambient brightness and the monitor for video surveillance can be integrated directly into the display. An integrated

passenger counting system with evaluation software supports operational planning. Hybrid wheels with aluminium rim rings reduce both weight and driving noise.

New standards for passenger comfort in the interior

The new light rail vehicles also set new standards in the interior. Energy-saving air conditioning ensures a pleasant interior climate with high energy efficiency. Large 29-inch monitors provide up-to-date passenger information, while LED lighting ensures uniform and energy-efficient illumination. Wider aisles and a continuous passenger compartment create a spacious feel and allow for a more even distribution of passengers, which facilitates faster boarding and alighting and reduces waiting times at stops. In their design, both companies consistently focus on state-of-the-art accessibility – from the choice of materials to the colour scheme – to ensure inclusive use for our passengers.

Jure Mikolčić, CEO Stadler Division Germany: "Tailor-made vehicles for Cologne."

"With the new high-floor light rail vehicles, we are joining forces with KVB to send a strong signal for the mobility of the future – comfortable, energy-efficient and ready for the challenges of tomorrow. The vehicles are tailor-made for Cologne and combine state-of-the-art technology with a flexible, modular design," says Jure Mikolčić, CEO of Stadler Division Germany.

30-year service life

KVB also relies on Stadler for sustainability and long-term operational reliability. The new light rail vehicles are not only comfortable and energy-efficient, but also designed for a service life of over 30 years. As part of a long-term partnership, Stadler will ensure the supply of spare parts and provide service and support, from preventive maintenance to technical advice. This will ensure that the vehicles remain reliable, safe and efficient in operation over the long term.

The first ten trains and five connecting modules are scheduled for delivery in 2029 for pre-series operation. Series delivery is scheduled from mid-2030 to the end of 2032. The new vehicles will gradually replace the existing 2200/2300 and 5100 series trains and will be used on lines 4, 13 and 18 from 2029 onwards.

The high-floor light rail vehicle at a glance:

Number of vehicles	132 and 34 intermediate modules
Length	Up to 70 metres, depending on configuration
Number of doors	Depending on configuration, 8 to 10 doors per vehicle side
Passenger comfort	Light-flooded passenger compartment with a spacious feel
	Optimal passenger flow and accessibility
	Air conditioning with natural refrigerant
Transport capacity	Up to 470 passengers
Comfortable workplace	Ergonomically designed driver's cab with excellent all-round visibility
	Equipped with driver assistance systems
Commissioning	From 2029

About Stadler

Stadler has been building trains for over 80 years. The provider of mobility solutions in rail vehicle construction, service and signalling technology has its headquarters in Bussnang in eastern Switzerland. More than 15,200 employees work at 8 production and 6 engineering locations as well as over 80 service locations, including over 5,600 employees in Switzerland.

The company is aware of its social responsibility for sustainable mobility and therefore stands for innovative, sustainable and durable quality products. The product range in the mainline and urban transport sector includes high-speed trains, intercity trains, regional and suburban trains, underground trains, tram-trains and trams. Stadler also manufactures mainline locomotives, shunting locomotives and passenger coaches. Stadler is the world's leading manufacturer of rack-and-pinion railway vehicles.

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About Kölner Verkehrs-Betriebe AG (KVB)

With more than 4,000 employees, KVB is the fourth-largest municipal transport company in Germany. With its climate-friendly and environmentally friendly transport services, KVB is the leading mobility service provider in Cologne and the surrounding region. More than 236 million people travelled on the company's buses and trains last year, and more than 334,000 passengers are now regular KVB customers. It operates twelve light rail lines and around 60 bus routes. KVB is committed to new, environmentally friendly technologies and is converting its entire bus fleet to electric drive, for example. Since 2015, the company has also been offering a bicycle rental system with great success. In 2024 alone, around 4.5 million rentals were registered.

Media contacts

Stadler Germany

Julia Bülow

Head of Communications & Marketing

Phone: +49 172 4640631

Email: Presse.Deutschland@stadlerrail.com

www.stadlerrail.com

Kölner Verkehrs-Betriebe AG (KVB)

Matthias Pesch

Head of Corporate Communications

Phone: +49 221 5473304

Email: presse@kvb.koeln

www.kvb.koeln