

MEDIA RELEASE

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Frauenfeld-Wil-Bahn buys five new Stadler vehicles

The tender from Frauenfeld-Wil-Bahn AG (FW) for five new low-floored multiple-unit trains – with a value of around CHF 31 million – goes to Stadler Rail. With the modern rolling stock, FW customers will in future be offered a very attractive deal. For Stadler, the order is a success in the important metre-gauge vehicle segment – plus the company has come full circle: two of the FW multiple-unit trains were some of the first vehicles Stadler built under the management of Peter Spuhler, at the start of the 1990s.

A need for new vehicles identified

After analysing the future need for vehicles on the Frauenfeld-Wil-Bahn line, in summer 2009 the railway's management decided to purchase five new latest-generation multiple-unit trains. Following various preparations, the official tender went out in autumn 2010. The FW Board of Directors awarded Stadler the tender in January 2011.

New trains planned to be in operation by summer 2013

The new trains will have a first class compartment. With much of the carriage being low-floored, disabled access is good and makes getting on and off easier. The vehicles have air conditioning and three generous entry and multi-purpose areas, as well as modern passenger information systems. Dr Bruno Gähwiler, President of the FW Board of Directors, is delighted: "As a train for commuters to Wil and Frauenfeld, and as an important connection between the localities on the line, FW will be able to meet the very latest standards." The first vehicles are planned to enter service in summer 2013. "With the new vehicles, FW is very well positioned for the future and for further growth in commuter traffic," explains Dr Hansjürg Düsel, Director of FW.

The vehicle meets the particular requirements of the FW line: it is able to negotiate tight curves and has an electromagnetic rail brake as well as a special crash front. The FW multiple-unit train is part of the tailor-made segment of vehicles (custom and small-scale production) which is part of Stadler Rail's core expertise. In the last few years, this segment has on average accounted for around 20% of orders.

Personally important

“This order in our home cantons Thurgau and St. Gallen means a great deal to me personally,” emphasises Peter Spuhler, CEO and owner of Stadler Rail Group. He continues: “On the one hand, I am filled with pride that in future the very latest Light Rail Vehicles from the Stadler factory will be in operation in our immediate environment. On the other hand, it is a particularly special moment for me personally, to receive an order from my very first customer once again after 20 years. Back then, FW put their faith in us and ordered two multiple-unit trains. By doing so, they contributed to our success right from the very beginning.” Peter Spuhler took over Stadler in 1989. At that time, the company had just 18 employees.

Modern trains for Thurgau

The canton Thurgau, represented by Councillor Dr Kaspar Schläpfer, also agreed to the purchasing of the new vehicles: “With the new rolling stock, the Frauenfeld-Wil-Bahn will become a fantastic regional railway. I am delighted that there will then be almost exclusively modern trains operating on the Thurgau rail network.”

Picture caption:

Potential design for the new Frauenfeld-Wil-Bahn trains

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