

## **PRESS RELEASE**

# **43 VDL Citeas Electric for Qbuzz in Groningen and Drenthe**

VDL Bus & Coach is going to deliver 43 VDL Citeas Electric to Qbuzz. The order consists of 11 VDL Citeas SLFA-180 and 32 VDL Citeas SLF-120 Electric. These e-buses will be deployed from the end of 2019 on city lines in the cities of Emmen, Assen and Groningen. In addition to electrification of bus transport in various major cities in the Netherlands, VDL Bus & Coach is also contributing substantially to making bus transport more sustainable in the Groningen Drenthe concession. This order is a nice addition to the 10 electric articulated VDL Citeas that will serve the Q-link bus lines from the local region to important destinations in the City of Groningen starting in late 2017.

“As a reliable transition partner to emission-free public transport, we are very pleased to once again contribute to the further electrification of bus transport in the north of the Netherlands,” says Managing Director Ard Romers of VDL Bus & Coach Nederland. “This second award of a tender for electric buses, consisting of 43 electric Citeas, demonstrates Qbuzz's confidence in VDL's electric product range and VDL as a supplier. We are proud to work together with our partner Qbuzz and concession grantor OV-Bureau Groningen Drenthe to improve the quality of life in the northern cities.”

### **Transition to cleaner public transport**

In July of last year, concession grantor OV-bureau Groningen Drenthe chose Qbuzz as bus operator in the provinces of Groningen and Drenthe. An important reason for this is Qbuzz' ambition to gradually electrify all bus transport in this concession. The use of electric buses from December 2019 will reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 90%. With the order of 43 electric VDL buses and the 10 VDL Citeas SLFA Electric already in operation, VDL Bus & Coach has a large share in the significant CO<sub>2</sub> reduction within this concession.

### **VDL Citeas Electric**

The 32 VDL Citeas SLF-120 Electric will be equipped with a 216 kWh battery pack and built in a 2-door configuration. The 11 VDL Citeas SLFA-180 Electric will be equipped with a 288 kWh battery system and built in 3-door configuration. Both e-bus variants for Qbuzz will be outfitted with the latest battery technology. With the pantograph on the roof, the vehicles can be charged faster. This ensures optimum operational availability of the vehicles.

### **Qbuzz**

Qbuzz was founded in April 2008 and is an ambitious, innovative quality player in the Dutch regional public transport market. Besides the Groningen Drenthe concession, Qbuzz also provides public transport in the Utrecht Region concession and the DMG concession (Drechtsteden,

Molenlanden and Gorinchem) in South Holland. The company has over 2,400 employees and transports over 300,000 passengers every day with a fleet of 780 buses, 26 trams and 10 railcars.

### **VDL Bus & Coach**

The core activities of VDL Bus & Coach consist of the development, manufacturing, sales and after-sales of a wide range of buses, coaches and chassis modules, the conversion or extension of mini & midi buses and the purchase and sales of second-hand buses. Manufacturing takes place in the Netherlands and Belgium. VDL Bus & Coach places high value on quality, safety, durability, the environment, low fuel consumption, comfort and low maintenance costs. Sales of VDL Bus & Coach products take place through a worldwide network consisting of corporate-owned sales offices, importers and agents in more than 30 countries. This makes it possible to offer custom-made transport solutions. For after-sales and maintenance, the client can count on rapid, hassle-free assistance from VDL Bus & Coach employees in any of the many service locations. An extensive distribution network ensures that spare parts and accessories are delivered to the requested destination as quickly as possible. VDL Bus & Coach is one of the largest bus producers in Europe.

### **VDL Groep**

VDL Bus & Coach is part of VDL Groep. VDL Groep, with its head office in Eindhoven (The Netherlands), is an international industrial company focused on the development, production and sales of semi-finished products, buses & coaches and other finished products and the assembly of cars. Since the founding in 1953 this family-owned company has grown to include 102 operating companies, spread over 20 countries with more than 16,000 employees and an annual turnover of 5.973 billion euros in 2018. The strength of VDL Groep lies in the mutual cooperation between the companies.

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VDL Bus & Coach bv  
Marcel Jacobs  
Commercial Director  
Telephone +31 (0)40 208 44 00  
m.jacobs@vdlbuscoach.com

VDL Bus & Coach bv  
Alex de Jong  
Business Manager Public Transport  
Telephone +31 (0)40 208 44 00  
a.de.jong@vdlbuscoach.com

VDL Bus & Coach Nederland bv  
Ard Romers  
Managing Director  
Telephone +31 (0)40 208 44 90  
a.romers@vdlbuscoach.com