

PRESS RELEASE

New Citea city bus from VDL Bus & Coach

VDL Bus & Coach is introducing a new city bus with a completely flat floor. The city bus, called Citea, is the first model in a new generation of public transport buses. The introduction of the Citea will be one of the highlights of the 'UITP Mobility and City Transport Exhibition' in Helsinki at which this bus will be presented.

Addition

The Citea will replace the SB 250 Jonckheer and the Diplomat and is also clearly intended to be an addition to the existing product range of VDL Bus & Coach. The new concept allows the bus to be harmonised with the specific national requirements of the carriers. There is, for example, the possibility of fitting a normal or an extra-wide entrance and exit door in order to comply with the various wishes of public transport companies. The Citea can be refined further on a modular basis until it becomes a custom-made item which offers each carrier what it needs.

European wishes

During the development of the Citea, the wishes of operators in various European countries were mapped out and translated into a concept which distinguishes itself through a high degree of modularity, compact dimensions and a degree of manoeuvrability which makes the bus suitable for any purpose. It offers VDL Bus & Coach an opportunity to present itself even more clearly in the public transport market as a European player who is capable of taking into account every local requirement. It was for this reason that the bus was developed by an international team within VDL Bus & Coach. Constructors from VDL Berkhof Heerenveen (the Netherlands) and from VDL Jonckheere (Belgium) were involved in the project in order to gather together as much technical input and marketing expertise as possible.

Tried and tested technology

In construction terms, the new city bus is based on the lightweight systems, which VDL Berkhof Heerenveen has been using with success for years in the Ambassador and which have now proven their effectiveness and strength. An example of this is the bolt connections which are used to connect the roof, the side frames and the side panels and which make rapid repair possible in the event of a collision without drastic disassembly being necessary. The delivery of replacement parts is also not a problem because the whole bus is built in modules – VDL Parts has them in stock.

Clear family characteristics

As far as design is concerned the Citea has the same style characteristics as the Jonckheere coach which was launched in 2005 during Busworld in Kortrijk. The design was in the hands of industrial designer Axel Enthoven who succeeded in creating a clear family likeness between these two buses. The common style elements, especially in the grill and at the rear of both buses, make the family connection unmistakable. The lighting, which is based on LED elements in both models, is mounted in the same way in the bodywork and the design.

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