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Cologne, 26. August 2019

VRR and NWL renew Emscher-Münsterland-Netz contract with Transdev subsidiary NordWestBahn:

NordWestBahn extends leasing contract with Alpha Trains

- **Eight diesel multiple units leased for a further seven years**
- **Successful remarketing to previous operator**

NordWestBahn will be operating route RE 14 for a further seven years and will lease Bombardier Talent diesel multiple units from Alpha Trains. The Transdev subsidiary has successfully resecured the contract for the Emscher-Münsterland network following a Europe-wide tendering procedure.

“Since the original plans for how this network was to be operated differed from what they are now, we are particularly pleased to have been able to respond flexibly to the new requirements and to continue our successful partnership with NordWestBahn”, said Shaun Mills, CEO of Alpha Trains Group.

Background: According to their own statements, Verkehrsverbund Rhein-Ruhr (VRR) and Nahverkehr Westfalen-Lippe (NWL) originally planned to use hydrogen-powered trains with fuel cells on the lines of this network. After assessing the situation, they then decided in favour of electric multiple units with batteries instead of hydrogen.

However, as charging stations have to be installed at railway stations to facilitate recharging of the trains' batteries, the Emscher-Münsterland network was once again put out to tender to be operated as a diesel network during the transitional period, until battery electric vehicles and the necessary infrastructure are up and running.

VRR and NWL have developed a new line concept, based on flexible deployment of diesel multiple units to make rail travel even more attractive: passengers from Coesfeld, who until now have had to change trains in Dorsten, will in future be able to travel all the way to Essen without changing. The main aim of this is to lure commuters off the roads and onto the railway in order to reduce pollution and CO₂ emissions in the Ruhr region.



Photo: NordWestBahn/Holger Jacoby

About Alpha Trains

Alpha Trains is the leading rolling stock lessor in Continental Europe. Around 110 employees from 11 countries work in offices in Luxembourg, Antwerp, Cologne, Madrid and Paris. Alpha Trains owns 416 passenger trains and 363 locomotives and offers tailor-made leasing solutions, comprehensive know-how in maintenance and vehicle repairs as well as long-term experience in the financing of new build projects. Alpha Trains' fleets are in use by many public and private operators in 17 European countries. Alpha Trains' shareholders are Arcus Infrastructure Fund, AMP Capital and Public Sector Pension Investment Board (PSP Investment).

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