



Press release for 5th November 2017

At the World Climate Conference: local transport industry profiles its role as pioneer in the transport revolution with the "CleanShuttle"

Berlin/Bonn, 5 November 2017. Buses and trains are already helping to avoid 20 million car journeys a day in Germany. Stadtwerke Bonn (SWB), Nahverkehr Rheinland (NVR), the Association of German Transport Companies (VDV) and other players have therefore taken the occasion of the COP 23 World Climate Conference, being held from 6th to 17th November 2017 in Bonn, to position bus and rail even more emphatically as an attractive and climate-friendly alternative in the context of mobility as part of a day of action. At the heart of the activities will be the public unveiling of the CleanShuttle, which will transport the around 25,000 delegates of the World Climate Conference over the next two weeks in an environmentally friendly manner thanks to buses powered by electricity, fuel cells and hybrid solutions.

A completely new concept at a global climate conference: transport companies from a range of cities provide state-of-the-art, low-emissions, battery-powered, fuel cell-powered and hybrid buses for the CleanShuttle. There will be vehicles operating on three lines in the Bonn conurbation and to Cologne/Bonn airport, demonstrating how climate-friendly mobility can look on the streets already. The bus shuttle service is being organised by the transport companies of Bonn's municipal utilities, which is regarded nationwide as a pioneer on the subject of alternative forms of propulsion, and the VDV. The organisers are supported by vehicles and staff from Stuttgart's tram network (SSB), the Bochum-Gelsenkirchen tram network (BOGESTRA), the Düsseldorf Rheinbahn and Cologne's transport companies (KVB). During the world climate conference, RVK (Regionalverkehr Köln GmbH) will be shuttling the visitors with one of its fuel cell hybrid buses from the station in Bad Godesberg to the hydrogen exhibition at the German Museum in Bonn. On the bus side, SILEO will also be sending an electric bus to Bonn. Other partners providing shuttle transport include the national organisation for hydrogen and fuel cell technology (NOW) and the international umbrella organisation for transport companies (UITP).

Use of the CleanShuttle is free to congress ticket holders, thanks to a financial contribution from the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. The NRW state government has also covered the majority of costs associated with the construction of the new "Bonn UN Campus" stop. The stop, which was finished earlier than planned due to the world climate conference and which was officially opened today, improves the rail connections to this part of the region. The stop will be of benefit to around 4,000 commuters each day. The stop was not due to be opened until the timetable change in December 2017. However, the Nahverkehr Rheinland joint body and DB Station&Service organisations accelerated the construction work in order to offer the 25,000 or so expected delegates from 190 countries a smooth arrival at the COP 23 World Climate Conference.





TramTrain from Karlsruhe meets CleanShuttle in Bonn

Alongside the CleanShuttle, there was another environmentally friendly mode of transport in the spotlight during today's day of action: the twin-system metropolitan railway from Albtal-Verkehrs-Gesellschaft (AVG). The TramTrain, as it is known, has been providing a high-performance local transport service and direct mobility for 25 years as part of the "Karlsruhe model", since it operates on both the inner city tram network and regional railways. For today's day of action, at 11 a.m., a TramTrain carrying around 100 passengers set off from Karlsruhe to Bonn in order to symbolically relay the new "Bonn UN Campus" stop from electric rail to the electric bus.

Local public transport industry calls for better framework conditions from the new federal government

The day of action, organised under the title "Germany's Local Transport Day" and held at the UN Campus stop, along with the two weeks of CleanShuttle transport to the world climate conference, highlight once again the commitment of local public transport companies to mobility and climate protection. Around 60 per cent of journeys taken by rail, tram and metropolitan railway are powered by electricity, and in major cities and their urban surroundings, this figure is over 80 per cent. Local transport companies in Germany are also investing in modern, low-emissions vehicles, expansion of their services and attractive offers. And the investments are paying dividends: last year, for the first time, over ten billion passengers travelled by bus and rail. In the first six months of 2017, 5.2 billion passengers have used local transport, which represents an increase of 1.5 per cent compared to the record year of 2016.

On the background of high pollution in many cities and the current debate over looming bans on vehicles, expansion of the local public transport network is inevitable if the federal government's climate protection goals are to be reached. Transport companies in Germany are willing to make their contribution to a sustainable transport revolution, but they need political support to do so. The industry is therefore calling for the government to set up a special local public transport programme worth Euro 15 billion over the next ten years to significantly accelerate the modernisation and expansion of local transport.

Further information on the CleanShuttle and the COP 23 World Climate Conference can be found at www.cleanshuttle-bonn.com.

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