

Press release

New S-Bahn commuter train for Berlin passes test in the world's longest climatic wind tunnel

12-week testing program in the climatic wind tunnel in Vienna · wide-ranging tests involving ice, snow and heat

(Vienna, October 24, 2019) It doesn't matter one bit – in scorching heat or teeth-chattering cold: The new S-Bahn commuter trains for Berlin and the neighboring state of Brandenburg are designed to effortlessly handle anything that nature throws at them. To ensure that they can, a four-section train of the preliminary series underwent 12 weeks of testing in Vienna. In the world's longest climatic wind tunnel operated by Rail Tec Arsenal (RTA) in Vienna, extreme temperatures and weather conditions can be created simply by pressing a button. The RTA offers realistic simulations for trains and passengers conducted at temperatures of -25 degrees Celsius with ice and snow or of +45 degrees Celsius with blistering solar radiation. In such tests, researchers can determine whether the pantograph will work during periods of heavy snow and ice, whether the doors will open and close and whether the gap-bridging system can be smoothly extended and retracted. Berlin's "new kids in town" passed all of these tests with flying colors.

Alexander Kaczmarek, representative for the Deutsche Bahn Group in Berlin, said: "Train reliability in all sorts of weather – this is what our passengers expect of our trains, and we intend to offer it to them in the future with our new series. These vehicles will be tested for two years. DB made sure to include this all-encompassing testing program in the technical specifications."

To simulate the situation in the passenger compartment during any type of weather, two cars of the train will be equipped with temperature probes and other sensors. Heating mats will simulate the warmth experienced by passengers, and a humidifier will add moisture to the air. "The 483/484 series is the first Berlin S-Bahn commuter train to be equipped with air conditioning," said Jure Mikolčić, CEO of Stadler Pankow GmbH. "With its low tunnels and underpasses, Berlin's infrastructure requires special technical solutions related to the installation of components and the guidance of chilled air. For this reason, one aspect of the program involved putting these functions through the most demanding types of tests. The results of all tests will be thoroughly analyzed. We will take action if we find any optimization needs."

Sabrina Soussan, CEO of Siemens Mobility, added: "The tests in the climate wind tunnel will ensure reliable service by Berlin's S-Bahn commuter trains in all types of weather. Rail Tec Arsenal provides us with optimal conditions in which

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Publisher: Deutsche Bahn AG
Potsdamer Platz 2, 10785 Berlin, Germany
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we can conduct a broad range of climate tests. By taking such steps, we are supporting our customers, ensuring reliable operations for our passengers and enhancing passenger experience.”

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