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Press release

Commissioning begins: a further milestone for the new S-Bahn trains for Berlin and Brandenburg

The Siemens/Stadler manufacturer's consortium is right on schedule – assembly of first half train completed

(Berlin, June 27, 2018) A further milestone has been reached for the new S-Bahn (suburban railway) for Berlin and Brandenburg! Following its assembly, the first half train BR 484 already looks as good as finished from the outside.

And the four cars are quite presentable inside as well: The blue and black seats, handrails and wall paneling are installed, the flooring is finished and 90 kilometers of cable have been laid. Especially striking are the large panorama windows and the generous space provided for buggies and bicycles. There's also a special area for wheelchairs located directly behind the driver.

But the train can't yet run on its own.

That's why it will be transferred to the Stadler site in Velten in the next few days, where the commissioning process will bring it to life. This stage includes all the technical activities that are necessary to make the assembled rail vehicle operational. In practical terms, this means that the software required for all functions will be installed and each technical part will subsequently be tested – from the emergency brakes and operation of the air conditioning system to the third rail conductor, located on the bottom side of the cars.

Michael Müller (SPD), Governing Mayor of Berlin: "For the Berlin public, the S-Bahn is an indispensable daily transport system that plays a central role in the reunited city. The new half train represents the future of this system and will enhance the quality and safety of the S-Bahn and bring it into the 21st century. I'm happy that a clear perspective of the future has become both visible and tangible today."

Millions invested by S-Bahn Berlin

S-Bahn Berlin is investing around €900 million in the new trains and the necessary modifications of the workshop in Grünau. The transport operator has ordered 106 trains with a total of 382 cars from the consortium of Stadler Pankow GmbH and Siemens AG. The 85 four-car trains and an additional 21 two-car trains will operate on the network's Ring/Southeast subnet.

Peter Buchner, Managing Director of S-Bahn Berlin GmbH: "The new trains will convince the public with their reliability and comfort. So I'm especially pleased that the first train is already on the tracks. Our launch is on January 1, 2021 – when the first ten pre-series trains begin service on the S47 line between Südkreuz and Spindlersfeld!"

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Susanne Henckel, Managing Director of VBB Verkehrsverbund Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH: "We're reached a true milestone today! We defined the train's technical standards on paper many months ago – and now it's a great feeling to finally be able to actually touch one. But there's no time to sit back and rest: We hope that the next phases up to vehicle authorization will be completed on time. Riders are expecting the trains in 2021."

The Stadler/Siemens consortium

The first red and yellow car body of the coming vehicle generation arrived in Berlin in October 2017, and their final assembly has since been underway at full speed.

Siemens is delivering the key electrical components, such as drive power converters, auxiliary converters, train control system, passenger information system, bogies and brake system. Stadler is primarily responsible for the mechanical components, including car bodies, interior fittings (walls, floors, and ceilings), seats, doors and the air conditioning system. Delivery of the main production series will be completed by 2023.

Ulf Braker, CEO of Stadler Pankow GmbH: "Completion of the assembly work on the first train in a series is always something special. We're really happy to be dispatching the first new train for S-Bahn Berlin – with its high "Made in Berlin" quality – to undergo its commissioning. Then we'll be able to present the finished train to all interested Berliners at the InnoTrans 2018."

"Today, around two-and-a-half years after signing the contract, we are presenting the first train and can start the commissioning process. Afterwards, we will be receiving the first S-Bahn at Siemens' test and validation center for rail vehicles in Wegberg-Wildenrath. Here we will thoroughly check the train under real operating conditions and simulate extreme situations with static or dynamic tests as part of the certification process," explains Müslüm Yakisan, head of Siemens' S-Bahn and regional trains unit.

The project "New S-Bahn for Berlin and Brandenburg" is thus right on schedule.

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