

Media release

PAGES 3
ENCLOSURES Photos

Berlin, October 1st, 2025

Stadler to supply modern FLIRT XL multiple units for the Rhine-Ruhr S-Bahn

The Rhine-Ruhr Transport Association (VRR) has awarded VIAS Rail GmbH the contract to operate lines S 5, S 8 and RE 41. Stadler will supply a total of 36 modern FLIRT XL multiple units for use on these routes, which have been specially designed to meet the requirements of the Rhine-Ruhr S-Bahn network.

The new three-car trains are characterised by a high level of comfort, accessibility and capacity. With a length of around 70 metres and 180 seats, they offer significantly more space than the trains previously used. Six extra-wide doors on each side of the vehicle, so-called crowding spaces, and spacious multi-purpose areas enable passengers to board and alight quickly and offer sufficient space for wheelchair users, bicycles, prams and luggage. All vehicles are also equipped with toilets.

"We are proud that our FLIRT XL vehicles are contributing to the modernisation and increased attractiveness of local transport in the VRR," says Jure Mikolčič, CEO of Stadler Division Germany. "The vehicles combine innovative technology with a well-thought-out design and meet the highest standards of comfort and efficiency."

The vehicles will be delivered in the familiar green and white design of the Rhine-Ruhr S-Bahn and will be operated, serviced and maintained by VIAS. Financing will be provided through the proven VRR financing model, under which the vehicles will become the property of VRR.

"We are pleased that starting in December 2029, we will be able to offer our passengers an attractive and comfortable travel option with the modern FLIRT XL railcars," says Thomas Esser, member of the VIAS management team. "Even today, we are one of the largest operators of Stadler FLIRT vehicles. The new trains will be an excellent addition to our fleet."

The S 5 and S 8 lines are scheduled to start operating in December 2029, and the RE 41 line in December 2030. The transport contract will run for 15 years until December 2044.

With this delivery, Stadler once again underlines its role as a reliable partner for sustainable mobility solutions in local public transport.

FLIRT – comfortable and reliable

With over 2,800 units sold worldwide, Stadler's FLIRT (**F**ast **L**ight **I**nnovative **R**egional **T**rain) is one of Stadler's bestsellers. The FLIRT impresses with its high flexibility, energy efficiency and adaptability to different areas of application. Thanks to its modular design, the train can be optimally adapted to the requirements of operators and route networks. [More information about the FLIRT](#)

About Stadler

Stadler has been building trains for over 80 years. The provider of mobility solutions in rail vehicle construction, service and signalling technology has its headquarters in Bussnang in eastern Switzerland. Around 16,600 employees work at 8 production and 6 engineering locations as well as over 80 service locations, including over 5,600 employees in Switzerland.

The company is aware of its social responsibility for sustainable mobility and therefore stands for innovative, sustainable and durable quality products. The product range in the mainline and urban transport sector includes high-speed trains, intercity trains, regional and suburban trains, underground trains, tram-trains and trams. Stadler also manufactures mainline locomotives, shunting locomotives and passenger coaches. Stadler is the world's leading manufacturer of rack-and-pinion railway vehicles.

Follow Stadler on [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#)

About VIAS

Under the VIAS brand, we have been operating competitive local rail networks in North Rhine-Westphalia, Hesse and Rhineland-Palatinate since 2005. These include relevant connections from the important railway hubs of Düsseldorf and Frankfurt. VIAS thus plays a key role in ensuring the mobility of a steadily growing customer base between conurbations and rural regions, currently covering around 11 million train kilometres per year. VIAS is a company of the RATH Group, which was founded in 2003 and is based in Düren. In addition to local rail passenger transport, the group offers a wide range of other transport services, especially on the railways.

Media contacts

Stadler Germany

Julia Bülow

Head of Communications & Marketing

Telephone: +49 172 4640631

Email: Presse.Deutschland@stadlerrail.com

www.stadlerrail.com

VIAS

Alexander Barth

Communications & Press Officer

Telephone: +49 173 2154 799

Email: a.barth@rath-gruppe.eu