

Press release

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Italy: the first narrow-gauge battery-powered train for Europe

Stadler and the Italian railway company Ferrovie Appulo Lucane (FAL) unveiled the first tailor-made battery-powered narrow-gauge electric train, a world first in the European railway sector. Being presented at the EXPO Ferroviaria in Milan, the new trains, commissioned by FAL, will save a total of over 1,300 tonnes of CO₂ per year. This innovation consolidates Stadler's position as a world leader in green technology.

"This is the first narrow-gauge electric train powered entirely by batteries in Italy and Europe. It is 100% green and will change the future of sustainable mobility in Basilicata," explains Maurizio Oberti, Sales Director for the Italian market at Stadler. "We are very proud to take our innovative green technology to the Italian market, which will promote sustainability in the Municipality of Matera and the Basilicata Region and help it achieve net zero. We would like to thank FAL for the trust they have placed in us and for the excellent collaboration established within the project."

"Ferrovie Appulo Lucane confirms its status as a public company capable of investing in the future and innovation and of honouring its commitments," says the General Manager of Ferrovie Appulo Lucane, Stefano Di Bello. "Two years ago, at EXPO Ferroviaria, together with the Minister of Transport, Matteo Salvini, we presented what was then just a futuristic project. Today, we already have the first of seven trains that will enter service on the Altamura – Matera line by the end of 2026. Thanks to the synergy between FAL, the Ministry of Transport, the Basilicata Region, and the Municipality of Matera, we have made a total investment of €63 million, partly from the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), partly from the PNRR Complementary Fund, and partly from the PON-PAC 2014-2020. Following a public tender procedure of Community relevance, FAL has entrusted Stadler with the construction of the trains".

"The goal," adds Vittorio Zizza, President of Ferrovie Appulo Lucane, "is to decarbonise the railway service on the Altamura – Matera line. FAL has been a strongly "green" company for years. This is one of the reasons why the livery we have chosen for TREEN (which is a registered trademark of

FAL) reflects the idea of sustainability and care for the environment. With this project, we have demonstrated our commitment to eco-sustainable mobility, thanks in part to the foresight of the Basilicata Region, which has always encouraged and supported us in these courageous and innovative investments.”

The new trains, manufactured entirely at Stadler's headquarters in Bussnang (Switzerland) and will expand FAL's current fleet. Today, the first train in the new series was officially unveiled to the public at the EXPO Ferroviaria, the international exhibition railway industry in Milan.

The Municipality of Matera and the Basilicata Region wished to start operating new environmentally-friendly trains, signing a contract with Stadler for the design and supply of a total of seven tailor-made, battery-powered, narrow-gauge electric trains in 2023 and 2024.

Before entering service, the new battery-powered electric trains will undergo a series of rigorous tests to comply with the guidelines set out by Italy's National Agency for the Safety of Railways and Road and Motorway Infrastructure (ANSFISA).

Saving of more than 1,300 tonnes of CO₂

Compared to the equivalent number of diesel trains, the seven new battery-powered vehicles will save a total of over 1,300 tonnes of CO₂ per year, equating to 650 flights from Zurich to Thailand.

Sustainability is reflected in all the features and functionalities of the new trains: from the innovative battery propulsion system to the environmentally-friendly LED interior lighting system, updated to the latest energy standards and in line with the technical specifications required by FAL. Seat upholstery is made from recycled materials and there is a dedicated area for e-bikes. All this is integrated into a new iconic design, created with FAL, to communicate the strong link with the environment and the transition to new green trains.

Powerful battery traction

The new zero-emission electric trains are fitted with high-performance battery-powered electric propulsion, located above the motor bogie to ensure excellent grip and optimal traction in all weather and operating conditions. The batteries have a high specific energy and allow for short charging times and considerable operating autonomy.

Passengers will also benefit from comfortable, functional and bright interiors, large panoramic windows and low-floor access, enabling people with reduced mobility to board easily.

Caption (from left to right): **Maurizio Oberti**, Regional Sales Director for Italy Stadler; **Ansgar Brockmeyer**, Executive Vice President Marketing & Sales Division and Deputy Group CEO Stadler; **Stefano di Bello**, General Director Ferrovie Appulo Lucane; **Vittorio Zizza**, Chairman of the Board of Directors Ferrovie Appulo Lucane

Click [here](#) to watch the video of the vehicle presentation.

About Stadler

Stadler has been building trains for over 80 years. The company, which offers mobility solutions specialising in the construction of railway vehicles, maintenance and signalling technology, is based in Bussnang, in eastern Switzerland. More than 16,600 employees, including over 5,600 in Switzerland, work in eight production and six engineering facilities, as well as in over 80 vehicle maintenance centres. The company is aware of its social responsibility for sustainable mobility and is therefore synonymous with innovative, sustainable and durable products. The product range in the railway and urban transport sector includes high-speed trains, intercity trains, regional trains and S-Bahn trains, underground trains, tram-trains and trams. Stadler also manufactures mainline locomotives, shunting locomotives and passenger carriages. Stadler is the world's leading manufacturer of rack railway vehicles.

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