27 January 2022 Press release Transportation Sustainability

Helaba to finance 28 tram-trains for Saarbahn Netz GmbH

By 2027, Saarbahn, a regional light rail network in the German state of Saarland, will take 28 of the new tram-trains into operation in Saarbrücken and on routes between Lebach and Saargemünd.



Helaba Landesbank Hessen-Thüringen has closed a deal to finance 28 Stadler CITYLINK tram-trains for Saarbahn Netz GmbH. Together with SaarLB, Helaba will be providing a total of EUR 140 million in finance, which Saarbahn will receive as proceeds from the issuance of a series of registered bonds. The Saarbahn order is part of a joint Europe-wide tender by six public transport companies for the construction of up to 504 tram-trains, of which firm orders have already been placed for 246. Members of the procurement consortium are: Saarbahn Netz, Verkehrsbetriebe Karlsruhe, Albtal-Verkehrs-Gesellschaft, Schiene Oberösterreich, the Austrian State of Salzburg and Regional-Stadtbahn Neckar-Alb.

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Peter Edlinger
Managing Director of Saarbahn Netz

"This order, which was placed using the procurement platform that we helped to establish more than three years ago, is by far the most cost-effective way for us to procure new sustainable vehicles," explains Peter Edlinger, Managing Director of Saarbahn Netz. "By providing the best possible financing solution and ensuring its professional execution, Helaba has supported us enormously. We explicitly welcome the involvement of SaarLB as our principal and long-standing banking partner."

»A key factor that enabled us to bring this large project to fruition in a very narrow timeframe was the extremely collaborative and efficient way in which everyone worked together.«

Martin Metz and Axel Scholl
Transport Finance

"We are delighted to kick off the year with the successful closing of a particularly environmentally-friendly project and would like to thank Saarbahn for placing its confidence in us," said Martin Metz, Head of Transport Finance, and his colleague Axel Scholl, on behalf of Helaba. "A key factor that enabled us to bring this large project to fruition in a very narrow timeframe was the extremely collaborative and efficient way in which everyone worked together."

Under the delivery schedule, the first four vehicles will be delivered to Saarbahn as pre-production vehicles as early as 2024, where they will be put through their paces by the consortium. Saarbahn, which was advised by KPMG regarding the financing, will receive a total of 24 additional tram-trains to replace existing vehicles from 2025, with an option for a further 21. The main purpose of the all-electric tram-trains is to offer direct connections to the city centre that will expand the range of sustainable, low-carbon mobility options.

Contact



Ursula-Brita Krück

Deputy Press Officer

+49 69 / 91 32 - 21 92

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