

Press Release

Munich/Düsseldorf/Birmingham, October 25, 2017

South Western Railways award Kiepe Electric a contract for traction upgrade and refurbishment

Kiepe Electric UK Ltd has been awarded a contract by First MTR South Western Trains Limited to carry out traction upgrade and refurbishment works on 18 Class 442 trains to be operated on the South Western Railway franchise.

The refurbished units will start to enter service from December 2018. The traction upgrade element will see the existing DC traction equipment replaced with state-of-the-art AC equipment incorporating IGBT (insulated-gate bipolar transistor) technology from Kiepe Electric Düsseldorf. This upgrade will increase the reliability and efficiency of the trains by removing the life expired equipment. In conjunction with the new traction equipment, a new braking system from Knorr-Bremse Rail Vehicle Systems will be installed which will improve the environmental performance of the trains and lower operating costs by enabling regenerative braking. The refurbishment will include new seats and carpets with at seat power in all classes and table top charging facilities in 1st Class. The environmental benefits also extend to the vehicle interiors with the installation of LED lighting. Wifi will be provided throughout and disabled passengers will be catered for with universal accessible toilets and seating facilities.

“We are delighted to have been awarded this contract which follows on from other recent turnkey projects, including retraction projects, delivered in the UK”, said Tim Jenkins, Managing Director Kiepe Electric UK Ltd. “It is a further testament to Kiepe Electric UK’s skill, capability and flexible approach in supporting customers to improve their rolling stock through delivering complex turnkey projects”.

Neil Drury, SWR Engineering Director said: “We are delighted to have appointed Kiepe Electric to carry out part of our planned £45m refurbishment and overhaul of our incoming Class 442 fleet of trains. Kiepe Electric has a proven track record in this field and we know that they will produce high quality, as-new trains for our customers which will include fully refurbished interiors, new information systems and improved performance.”

Caption: Kiepe Electric premises in Düsseldorf | © Kiepe Electric GmbH

Knorr-Bremse is a leading manufacturer of braking systems and supplier of additional sub-systems for rail and commercial vehicles, with sales totaling approximately EUR 5.5 billion in 2016. Some 25,000 employees develop, manufacture, and service braking, entrance, control, and energy supply systems, HVAC and driver assistance systems, as well as powertrain-related solutions. As a technology leader, through its products the company has been making a decisive contribution to greater safety by road and rail since 1905. Every day, more than one billion people around the world put their trust in systems made by Knorr-Bremse.

Knorr-Bremse subsidiary Kiepe Electric, based in Düsseldorf, Germany, is a globally active supplier of electrical systems to the leading rail vehicle and bus manufacturers. The company offers efficient solutions and ecologically sustainable concepts for low-emission public transportation with eco-friendly electrical equipment for light rail vehicles, metros and regional rail networks as well as for battery, trolley and In Motion Charging (IMC) buses. Kiepe Electric UK Ltd are a leading provider of turnkey, design engineering and managed installations to the UK rail market.

Contact:

Dr. Detlef Hug
Head of Corporate Communications
Tel. +49 (0)89 3547 1402
E-Mail: detlef.hug@knorr-bremse.com

Melanie Wiedenhöfer
Tel. +49 211 7497 352
E-Mail: melanie.wiedenhoefen@knorr-bremse.com

Paul Woolley
Sales & Commercial Director
Tel. +44 7557 852276
E-Mail: paul.woolley@kiepe.knorr-bremse.com

Knorr-Bremse AG
Moosacher Strasse 80
D-80809 Munich
www.knorr-bremse.com

Kiepe Electric UK Ltd
2 Priestley Wharf, Holt Street
Birmingham, B7 4BN
www.kiepe-electric.co.uk