

Press Release

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City of Bielefeld opts for 24 more Vamos LRVs with electrical systems from Kiepe Electric

Bielefeld utilities subsidiary moBiel has ordered 24 Vamos GTZ8-B high-floor light rail vehicles from the consortium of Kiepe Electric and Leipzig-based vehicle manufacturer Heiterblick.

As Dr. Peter Radina, Member of the Management Board Knorr-Bremse Rail Vehicle Systems, explains: “In the Vamos LRV, together with our partner Heiterblick we have developed a highly innovative vehicle for our customer. As a systems specialist, Kiepe Electric is responsible for all the electrical equipment, comprising not least the vehicle control technology, the traction system and the onboard power supply.”

In 2012 the Vamos received an iF Design Award in recognition of the quality of its design, the level of innovation, its functionality and ergonomics, and the safety of the vehicle. The striking visual feature of the Vamos LRV is its bulbous shape: It only reaches its full width of 2.65 m above the height of the platforms. As a result, the existing platforms in Bielefeld, which were designed for LRVs 2.30 m wide, can still be used.

Deliveries of these spacious light rail vehicles will begin in the second quarter of 2020. They are to replace M8C models built in the 1980s and will offer not only leading-edge technology and comfort but also a substantially higher capacity, with room for up to 230 passengers. The new LRVs will be built to the same specifications as the models delivered in 2011 and 2012.

The 34-meter, three-car bi-directional vehicles feature four drive axles, doors with folding steps, air-conditioning for the driver’s cab and passenger compartment, and a state-of-the-art passenger information system. Kiepe Electric’s refined obsolescence management system ensures that the latest technology will be applied and is also available for vehicles already on the fleet.

Caption: The Vamos GTZ8-B light rail vehicle | © moBiel 2011, photographer: Veit Mette

Knorr-Bremse is the leading manufacturer of braking systems and supplier of additional sub-systems for rail and commercial vehicles, with sales totaling over EUR 6 billion in 2017. In 30 countries, some 28,000 employees develop, manufacture, and service braking, entrance, control, and energy supply systems, HVAC and driver assistance systems, as well as steering systems, and powertrain and transmission control 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.

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.

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