
Press release

DATE: 9th December 2008

NedRailways acquires Abellio, a leading passenger rail and bus operator in Germany

NedRailways today announced the acquisition of 100% of the shares in German public transport operator Abellio GmbH from funds managed by Star Capital Partners, Abellio management and the city of Essen, for an undisclosed sum.

Abellio is one of the leading public transport operators in Germany, providing bus and rail services for several federal states. The company employs 1,000 staff, operates 600 buses and 40 trains, partly in joint ventures, and has revenues close to EUR 100 million.

Abellio will be NedRailways' platform for growth in the German public transport market. In doing so NedRailways will maintain the high level of service which Abellio's passengers expect, while working with current management to prepare the business for further growth.

Announcing the acquisition, NedRailways CEO Anton Valk said: "NedRailways is very excited to be entering one of Europe's biggest passenger transport markets through the acquisition of Abellio. This is a crucial first step for NedRailways in becoming an established player in the German bus and rail market. The current management has done a tremendous job in establishing Abellio as a substantial market presence in a very short time, and NedRailways is pleased to have the opportunity now to build on that achievement.

Abellio plays a vital role for the communities it serves. Our priority therefore is to maintain the quality of these operations, which have quite rightly gained Abellio recognition from regional authorities and passengers."

Date 8 December 2006

Note to editors

Please contact Cameron Jones, tel. +44 77 66075077, e-mail cameron.jones@nedrailways.com, NedRailways Ltd., 1 Ely Place, 2nd Floor, London, EC1N6RY, United Kingdom

NedRailways

NedRailways is a wholly owned subsidiary of NS (Dutch Railways) aimed at acquiring and operating multimodal passenger transport franchises outside the Netherlands. NedRailways' aim is to become a major player in the European passenger transport market

NedRailways currently operates rail services in the UK through Merseyrail and Northern Rail, in an equal joint venture with Serco. As a subsidiary of NS, NedRailways is able to draw on decades of experience and expertise from a company which operates reliable, punctual and innovative services, as well as bus services, in one of the highest density transport networks on the continent. This experience is shared with Merseyrail and Northern Rail through a highly structured programme which facilitates the exchange and implementation of best practice between the UK and the Netherlands.

In November 2008 NedRailways also started operating bus services in the Czech Republic through the acquisition of local operator Probo Trans Beroun.

Through the delivery of safe and reliable rail services in partnership and with a commitment to serving the needs of the full passenger journey, NedRailways aims to improve the quality of life for those living, working or visiting urban areas by reducing traffic congestion, cutting vehicle emissions and encouraging greater use of integrated transport options.