

TÜV Rheinland Oversees the Construction of Modern S-Bahn Trains for the Rhine-Ruhr Region

New S-Bahn fleet with 36 multiple units for the Rhine-Ruhr Transport Association (VRR) / TÜV Rheinland inspects design, manufacturing, and acceptance / Trains scheduled to enter service in December 2029 / www.tuv.com

Cologne, August 11, 2026. The Rhine-Ruhr Transport Association (VRR) has commissioned TÜV Rheinland to conduct various technical inspections and acceptance tests for its new S-Bahn fleet. The experts at TÜV Rheinland Intertraffic are serving as an additional, independent oversight body (“second-level controlling”) for the project involving the construction of 36 multiple-unit trains by the Swiss manufacturer Stadler. The VRR plans to deploy the “FLIRT XL” trains, each with 180 seats, starting in December 2029 on the heavily trafficked route between Mönchengladbach, Düsseldorf, Wuppertal, and Hagen (S8).

From Design to Acceptance

The international team of TÜV Rheinland is involved in a total of three project phases: During the design phase, the experts verify whether the trains’ design and construction precisely meet the VRR’s contractual requirements and tender criteria.

In the subsequent manufacturing phase, TÜV Rheinland provides overarching and independent oversight of the entire production process at Stadler’s manufacturing plant. Once the multiple-unit trains are complete, the experts inspect all vehicles and validate the final technical acceptance.

Independent Technical Expertise in Demand

“We support the project from the first design drawing right through to the moment the trains roll out of the factory,” says Marko Nicklich, project manager at TÜV Rheinland. “Large-scale projects like this demonstrate how independent technical expertise helps ensure that modern, sustainable mobility solutions are put into service reliably and safely.”

Responsibility for procurement and construction supervision lies with the future operator and maintenance provider of the vehicles, the rail transport company VIAS Rail GmbH. However, since the completed vehicles will become the property

of the VRR's in-house operating unit, the VRR opted for an additional inspection by TÜV Rheinland.

TÜV Rheinland Intertraffic is a specialized center of excellence for rail-based passenger and freight transport. The company supports public authorities, rail operators, and manufacturers globally with manufacturer-independent engineering, consulting, and auditing services. Its portfolio ranges from technical due diligence and risk management to support for vehicle procurement processes and comprehensive asset and maintenance management, as well as complex certification and safety inspections in national and international rail transport.

About TÜV Rheinland

TÜV Rheinland is a leading provider of testing and inspection services worldwide. For over 150 years, the company has helped make the world a safer place. Today, more than 29,000 employees test, inspect and certify products, plants and processes, while also providing training for people in a wide range of professions. Operating from 500 locations in more than 50 countries, TÜV Rheinland helps safeguard key areas of business and everyday life. Headquartered in Cologne and generating annual revenue of close to €3 billion, the company plays a key role in quality assurance worldwide. TÜV Rheinland has been a member of the UN Global Compact since 2006, demonstrating its commitment to anti-corruption and sustainability. Website: www.tuv.com

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