

Colruyt Group tests 27 tonne hydrogen truck in Belgium and France

Halle, 9 November 2021 - In the past few months, Colruyt Group has been testing a 27-tonne "range extender" electric truck with hydrogen in Belgium, after it having tested a 44-tonne hydrogen truck earlier this year. The group will now also test this 27-tonne truck for a month in France. This truck was developed by the VDL Groep in Eindhoven, and the test is part of the European Interreg North-West Europe H2-Share demonstration project. While driving the truck, its batteries recharge with the electricity generated by the hydrogen fuel cell. In addition to being sustainable because of the use of green energy and hydrogen, this vehicle has the added benefit of being able to travel longer distances than other electric trucks - an important asset for freight transport. Colruyt Group believes that hydrogen can play an important role in making mobility and energy supplies more sustainable. That is why the group has been investing in this green energy carrier for years, and hopes that other companies will follow.

After Belgium also test with 27-tonne hydrogen truck in France

As a dedicated end user Colruyt Group is testing the hydrogen truck in its daily logistics operations in Belgium and France. Because of the diversity of the group, it is possible to test a variety of user cases. That way Colruyt Group fully lives up to its role as a pioneer in the concrete application of green energy. The truck is also quieter than others are, which also supports Colruyt Group's ambition to make more silent deliveries.

Colruyt Group and VDL Groep are active partners in the European demonstration project **H2-Share** (*H2-Share stands for "Hydrogen Solutions for Heavy-duty Transport Aimed at Reduction of Emissions in North-West Europe"*), which aims to build knowledge and experience with large-scale hydrogen applications in logistics. The truck is being tested by the various partners at 6 locations in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and France. By sharing the gained experience broadly, H2-Share wants to develop a roadmap for the application of hydrogen in heavy-duty transport. The project is partly made possible thanks to the financial support of the European Union within the framework of the **Interreg North-West Europa programme**.

Not a first: Colruyt Group leads the way in hydrogen

Since 2004, Colruyt has already invested 6 million euro in innovative projects with hydrogen. The group has been producing its own green hydrogen on the Dassenveld site for a few years now. In the distribution centre, a number of forklift trucks is hydrogen-powered. In addition, hydrogen is being used for 20 passenger cars, which are deployed within the group. In October 2018, the group opened the first

green public hydrogen filling station: the DATS 24 station in the Zinkstraat in Halle thus became the first fully integrated station in Belgium with a range of all possible fuels.

In 2020, Colruyt Group was the first in Europe to test a 44-tonne hydrogen truck. This is also a fully electric truck with hydrogen "range extender". This test was part of the European demonstration project Hydrogen Region 2.0, Interreg Flanders-Netherlands.



Interreg
North-West Europe
H2-Share



EUROPEAN UNION

This project is financed within the European cooperation programme Interreg North-West Europe.

More information: www.nweurope.eu

About Colruyt Group

Colruyt Group operates in the food and non-food distribution sector in Belgium, France and Luxembourg, with more than 600 own stores and over 580 affiliated stores. In Belgium, this includes Colruyt, OKay, Bio-Planet, Cru, Dreamland, Dreambaby, Bike Republic and the affiliated Spar stores. In France, in addition to the Colruyt stores, there are also affiliated Coccinelle, Coccimarket and Panier Sympa stores. The group is majority shareholder of The Fashion Society, which includes the fashion retail chains ZEB, PointCarré, The Fashion Store and ZEB For Stars. JIMS runs fitness clubs in Belgium and Luxembourg. Solucious and Culinoa deliver food service and retail products to professional customers in Belgium (hospitals, SMEs, hospitality sector, etc.). The other activities comprise the energy supply by DATS 24 in Belgium (fuels, natural gas and green energy), printing and document management solutions (Symeta Hybrid) and the production of green energy (Eoly). The group employs over 32.000 co-workers and recorded a EUR 9.9 billion revenue in 2020/21. Colruyt is listed on Euronext Brussels (COLR) under ISIN-no. BE0974256852

About WaterstofNet

WaterstofNet is a knowledge and cooperation platform that contributes to a carbon-neutral society by supporting and realising hydrogen projects in Flanders and the Netherlands. Along with the industry and the authorities, we provide concrete realisations in the field and lay the foundations for further cooperation. That way we can help Flanders and the Netherlands to develop as a leading hydrogen region. More info www.waterstofnet.eu

About VDL Groep

Strength through cooperation. That is the basis of VDL Groep, the international industrial family business with headquarters in Eindhoven. This company was founded in 1953 by Pieter van der Leegte. At first VDL Groep was a specialist in metal working. When his son Wim van der Leegte took over the company in 1966, it specialised in high-tech supplies for the semiconductor industry, among others, and expanded its portfolio to include plastics processing and the development, production and sale of buses. VDL Groep is active in subcontracting and semi-finished products, produces its own finished products such as suspension systems, automated car factory equipment, heat exchangers and container handling systems, and with VDL Nedcar in Born disposes of the only passenger car plant in the Netherlands in which serial assembly is carried out for third parties.

VDL Groep innovates through a combination of craftsmanship, entrepreneurship and high-end machines. The group of companies combines the strength of a multinational with the flat organisation and the open, informal working atmosphere of a family company where growth opportunities and continuity are given priority. Since 2016, the third generation of the Van der Leege family is at the helm. With more than 15,000 employees, VDL Groep is active in 20 countries. The group consists of 104 operating companies, that all have their own speciality and work closely together. The combined annual turnover in 2019 was 5.780 billion euro. More details: www.vdldgroep.com