



News service MAN Group

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Supervisory Board of NEOPLAN Bus GmbH decides on wide-ranging modernisation plan

- NEOPLAN Bus GmbH restructures division of labour in production network
- Restructuring to be realised by mid-2005

The outcome of the Supervisory Board meeting on 6th March 2003 was one of the most important changes in the history of NEOPLAN Bus GmbH. Whereas the production structure at the plants in Stuttgart, Pilsting and Plauen currently features identical processes, it will from 2005 onwards be replaced by a new structure that will guarantee specialised and more efficient bus manufacturing.

The plant in **Plauen** (Saxony) will from then on be the new centre for NEOPLAN bus shells. The **Pilsting** plant in Lower Bavaria will be expanded and become the assembly plant where engines and gearboxes are fitted and pre-assemblies are made; here the main paintwork will also be carried out. **Stuttgart**, the headquarters of NEOPLAN Bus GmbH, will complete the buses and fit them out and also be the central dispatch point for the high-value de luxe coaches. Alongside the competence and development centre for all MAN and NEOPLAN buses sales and administration departments will be maintained at Stuttgart. In the next three years NEOPLAN Bus GmbH will be investing tens of millions of Euro both in new products and in reorganisation of bus production, thus safeguarding the jobs of approx. 1,200 employees in Germany in the long term.

With this fundamental change in strategy NEOPLAN Bus GmbH is underlining its commitment to Germany as a production location and will thus remain competitive in the long term. In order to implement this restructuring in an economically sound manner, but also and above all in view of the continuing subdued economic activity in the bus sector, the excess capacity of approx. 300 jobs at the Pilsting and Stuttgart plants will be gradually decreased in 2004 and 2005. The aim is to do this in a socially acceptable manner, to which end talks between the management and the works council commenced a short time ago.

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