



News service MAN Group

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MAN Nutzfahrzeuge presents concept for securing Salzgitter location in the long term

Representatives of employers and employees also indicate jointly agreed personnel adjustment measures.

At the employees' meeting of MAN Nutzfahrzeuge and NEOMAN Bus on 12th March 2003 Håkan Samuelsson, Chairman of the Executive Board of MAN Nutzfahrzeuge, and Wolfgang Fahrnberger, Chairman of the Board of Management of NEOMAN Bus, presented a list of measures for securing the existence of the Salzgitter plant in the long term and making it fit for the future. In the Truck Division an investment programme will spur on expansion of assembly capacity and create new jobs. In the Bus Division the situation is more difficult, since at the MAN location in Salzgitter further structural changes are required. The high pressure on prices and the pessimistic market have led to overcapacities in production in Germany. In 2002 the Bus Division recorded a pre-tax loss of € 84 million. Despite this the headquarters of the entire MAN bus group was relocated to Salzgitter at the beginning of 2003, which is a first signal against the negative trend.

The concentration of central divisions, the extensive exploitation of synergies and further transfers of bus production to the MAN plants in Poland and Turkey form the basis for at least halving the loss in the Bus Division in 2003. At the moment, however, the development in the economy is proving an obstacle to achieving this target, as the much-needed boost in demand for scheduled-service buses will not materialise because of the cuts in public spending. A further fall in the volume of bus production at Salzgitter is therefore to be expected, and this must be balanced out in the personnel sector by means of immediate action: seven days of short-time working have already been agreed for April.

In the long term 350 persons are to be employed in the production of chassis and floor assemblies and 300 in the final assembly of low-floor buses. Together with the staff from the central divisions about 1,100 persons will thus continue to work in bus production. The resulting loss of 700 jobs is to be cushioned by reorganisation measures. 100 persons can, for example, find new employment in the expanded truck production. A further 100 will be kept in the Bus Division by insourcing or will be offered early retirement. To find places for the remaining 500 employees talks have already been held with neighbouring companies such as Alstom and with regional transfer and employment agencies. Former employees who have not found fixed employment outside NEOMAN Bus after two years will be able to return to the Salzgitter plant. The management expects that 250 employees will take advantage of this offer.

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