

Press release

Natural gas/biogas mobility booming in Switzerland: 30 Seat Leon vehicles to replace diesel models in the SPIE Switzerland Ltd fleet.

Vevey, 20 October 2017 - Natural gas/biogas mobility was at the heart of a major event held at the Bern STEP to mark the delivery of 30 Seat Leon ST TGI models to SPIE Switzerland Ltd. These bi-fuel vehicles (natural gas and petrol) are generating growing interest among fleet managers, and this sizeable delivery of natural gas/biogas vehicles represents a significant first for Seat.

The event marking the delivery to SPIE Switzerland Ltd employees of 30 Seat Leon models running on natural gas/biogas took place on Tuesday 17 October 2017 at the Bern STEP, the biogas-producing wastewater treatment plant that issued the biogas certificates for this vehicle fleet. Each car will run on 100% biogas for its first 1000 km, thus being 100% carbon neutral. In this connection the Bern STEP will be injecting a sufficient quantity of biogas in the natural gas network to meet the consumption needs for those 30,000 km. These new vehicles will save 21 tonnes of CO₂ over the course of their operating life while also greatly reducing harmful emissions such as particulate matter and nitrogen oxides (NO_x).

A subsidiary of SPIE Group, the independent European leader in multi-technical services in the areas of energy and communications, SPIE Switzerland Ltd is adding these 30 natural gas/biogas vehicles to its fleet to handle quick maintenance service calls.

“Among other things, SPIE develops energy efficiency services while assisting its clients in connecting with the green economy, so it was only natural for the business to lead by example. The new fleet of natural gas/biogas cars confirms this commitment to environmental responsibility!” enthused Michael Suderow, CFO of SPIE Switzerland Ltd.

Arval is the company responsible for the “Full Service Leasing” of these vehicles: “Arval increased the residual value of these gas/petrol powered vehicles to assist SPIE in its commitment to environmental responsibility and to provide a complete management plan for these vehicles” said Yannick Broccard, Business Unit Manager at Arval Switzerland SA.

“For SEAT, registering so many natural gas vehicles at once is a first in Switzerland, and it is to date the largest fleet of natural gas/biogas vehicles. Until now we could only expect more modest fleets, but this is something that is changing. The next major client has already signed a contract for the same model!” announced Karin Huber, Public Relations Manager at SEAT.

André Räss, natural gas/biogas mobility manager in Western Switzerland, is delighted with this atmosphere of change and excellent partnership: “More than ever, I believe in the possibility of expanding natural gas/biogas business fleets. With a trio of cars that has been at the top of EcoMobiliste rankings for several years, confirming the importance of mobility that both respects the environment and is economical, I am convinced that interest in these cars on the part of businesses can only increase! “

Photos of vehicles in the SPIE Switzerland Ltd fleet attached.

Additional information:

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About:

SPIE Switzerland Ltd:

A subsidiary of SPIE Group, the independent European leader in multi-technical services in the areas of energy and communications, SPIE Switzerland Ltd provides Switzerland-based ICT, multi-technical and facility services. The SPIE ICS (Information Communication Services), SPIE MTS (Multi-Technical Services) and SPIE IFS (Integral Facility Services) divisions offer services in the areas of “Smart City”, “Energies”, “efficient buildings” and “Industry Services” over 13 sites located across Switzerland.

Employees across the different business units have proven experience in advisory services, implementation and maintenance of complex and tailored solutions. This includes communication and secure data technologies, conventional and renewable energy sources as well as smart automation for virtually all branches and industries.

With SPIE Group and Global Workplace Alliance, SPIE Switzerland Ltd can count on the support of a global network that allows it to manage large international orders from beginning to end. This service offer includes high-quality Service Centre support available 24/7 in four languages.

With close to 600 sites in 38 countries and over 38,000 employees, in 2016 SPIE Group generated 5.1 billion euros in consolidated revenues and 352 million euros in consolidated EBITA.

In its “Germany and Central Europe” segment, which has over 6,500 employees operating from over 90 sites, SPIE Group generated 927 million euros in revenue in 2016.

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SEAT:

SEAT is the only company to develop, manufacture and sell cars in Spain. Wholly owned by Volkswagen Group, the multinational has its head office in Martorell (Barcelona), exports over 81% of its vehicles and is present in over 80 countries thanks to a network of 1,700 dealerships. In 2016 SEAT posted an operating profit of 143 million euros, the highest in the history of the brand, and sold 410,000 units throughout the world. In Switzerland, AMAG has been the distributor for SEAT since 1984. With a 3.3% market share, the Spanish car manufacturer has continued to reinforce its position in the Swiss market, leaving renowned competitors behind.

The multinational has a technical centre that acts as a knowledge hub, with its 1,000 engineers focused on promoting innovation for one of the largest industrial R&D investors in Spain. SEAT offers the very latest technologies in all its vehicles and is currently in the process of leveraging digital technology to promote the mobility of the future.

SEAT sees great potential in natural gas/biogas fuelled cars. It is a pertinent solution for fleets, and in fact the line of natural gas/biogas models is developing rapidly with the launch this year of the Ibiza and the future crossover Arona, which will also be available as a bi-fuel in 2018.

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Arval:

Founded in 1989 and wholly owned by BNP Paribas, Arval specialises in the full-service leasing of cars. Arval offers its customers - large international businesses, SMEs and other business users - tailored solutions that optimise transportation for their employees and externalise the risks relating to fleet management. Arval (Switzerland) Ltd

Present in Switzerland since 2001, Arval manages over 11,000 vehicles in Switzerland and is the leader in the rental and business fleet management markets.

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Mobility branch, Gaznat SA:

Regional supply companies have taken over responsibilities formerly assumed by Gazmobile. In Romandy, natural gas/biogas mobility has been incorporated into Gaznat SA since 1 January 2016. Based in Vevey, Gaznat SA has been supplying and distributing high-pressure natural gas in western Switzerland for over 45 years. Its customers primarily consist of large industrial groups and natural gas distributors, in particular industrial services that depend on public and private bodies, a majority of which are shareholders in the company. For more information please visit www.mobilite-gaz.ch.