



Ankara, March 23, 2015

## **Quality made in Ankara**

### **MAN plant in Turkey**

MAN and NEOPLAN brand city and intercity buses and touring coaches are built at the MAN plant in Ankara, MAN's largest bus plant. The latest product line is MAN Lion's Intercity, the jack of all trades in the large European standard intercity bus segment. It is celebrating its premiere at BusDays in Ankara. There are 1,600 employees at the 320,000 square metre plant. Around 1,000 employees are involved in the construction of a coach such as the 14-metre-long, 480 hp MAN Lion's Coach L Supreme, the luxury travelling headquarters of Bayern Munich Football Club. These include electricians, mechanics, engineers, paint operatives, welders and other specialists in, for example, stickers.

### **The stages of bus production**

Seven vehicles are manufactured per day - on one production line. Key operational steps: The welded skeleton (shell) is precision-measured by laser before being given coatings at the CDP unit (Cathode Dip Painting) giving them protection against corrosion. The CDP unit at the Ankara plant is the most advanced of all of MAN's European plants. In the next step the exterior panelling is mounted on the skeleton and painted, and mechanical parts such as engine, axles and discs are fitted. The process is completed with the assembly of the interior (cockpit, seat etc.) and finishing (final adjustments, cleaning etc.).

Extensive quality checks, for example at the shell stage, in the CDP unit, during assembly, painting, finishing and test runs ensure the products meet the highest possible quality and safety standards.

The new audit building which was commissioned in 2014 is suitable for all vehicle types. Checks are carried out to VW standard: with

**MAN Truck & Bus**  
Dachauer Straße 667  
D-80995 Munich

**Head of  
Corporate Communications**  
Andreas Lampersbach

Phone: +49 89 1580-2001  
Andreas.Lampersbach@man.eu  
www.man.eu/presse



special lighting for exterior and interior and improved checks for example of exterior panelling or colour. One bus a week is audited here, manufacturing faults identified and reported to the relevant section for correction. This means that quality standards can be continuously improved.

### **The product portfolio at the Ankara plant**

- MAN Lion's Intercity
- MAN Lion's Regio
- MAN Lion's Coach
- MAN Lion's City
- NEOPLAN Skyliner
- NEOPLAN Cityliner
- NEOPLAN Jetliner
- NEOPLAN Tourliner

### **The history of MAN in Turkey**

The history of MAN in Turkey dates back to the late 19th century. MAN began exporting trains and goods wagons to Turkey in 1874. By 1903 MAN was supplying diesel engines, and opened a sales office in Istanbul in 1910. But MAN was also well known in Turkey at the time for an entirely different project: the construction of the Galata Bridge in Istanbul in 1912. MAN had submitted the initial design to the Turkish Naval Ministry back in 1894. But it was not until summer 1910, after repeated delays, that the works began. It took almost two years of manufacturing on a specially built dockyard in the Golden Horn before the bridge was ready to be manoeuvred into position for the dedication ceremony in 1912. MAN had pre-fabricated parts of the two-storey floating bridge at its German factory in Gustavsborg near Mainz. It was then built in Istanbul. The Galata Bridge, built using 8,000 tonnes of steel, became a symbol of modern Turkey, a steel connection between East and West.

In 1966 MAN founded MAN A.S. in Istanbul, MAN's first production site outside Germany. One year later MAN launched truck production



and another year later, in 1968, bus production. At the time, MAN's tipper truck was a trailblazer. The triple-axle tipper truck, which rolled off the production line in large numbers, was painted red, giving it the nickname "Red Nose". In 1985 MAN shifted truck production to the capital, Ankara, where MAN already had an engine plant. In 1995 MAN sold the plant in Istanbul to concentrate on manufacturing city buses and touring coaches in Ankara. Truck production was eventually discontinued.

Under the "Evolution 2004" project, annual production was increased from four buses a day to eight per day. In 2006 MAN produced the first bus powered by compressed natural gas (CNG) in Turkey. Today there are around 1,300 MAN CNG buses used for the city of Ankara - the largest CNG fleet in the world. Since 2010 MAN Türkiye has had a research and development centre and since 2011 MAN's largest CDP unit in Europe.

As part of the drive to reorganise and increase the efficiency of the bus production network, in 2014 bus manufacturing was moved from the NEOPLAN site in Plauen to Ankara. From May 2015, the former NEOPLAN plant in Plauen will take on a new role in the MAN structure: the site is set to become a new Bus Modification Centre (BMC) for MAN and NEOPLAN public transport buses and coaches.

### **Milestones in the history of MAN in Turkey**

- 1910 MAN opens branch in Istanbul
- 1912 MAN builds the Galata Bridge which connects the old part of Istanbul to the newer part, Galata
- 1966 Foundation of MAN A.S. in Ankara and construction of a truck plant in Istanbul – MAN's first plant outside Germany
- 1981 MAN exports the first vehicle produced in Turkey
- 1985 Start-up of truck plant in Ankara



- 1986 MAN produces the first articulated bus in Turkey with a four-stroke diesel engine
- 1995 Sale of factory in Istanbul and concentration on production of trucks, city buses and touring coaches in Ankara
- 1997 Increase in production capacity to 4 buses per day
- 1999 MAN produces the first three-axle touring coach in Turkey
- 2002 Company name changes to "MAN Türkiye A.Ş."
- 2006 MAN produces the first buses powered by compressed natural gas (CNG) in Turkey
- 2010 The research and development centre combining design, testing and analysis teams under one roof receives government certification.
- 2011 Start-up of the largest CDP plant (Cathode Dip Painting)
- 2014 Start of production of all NEOPLAN bus models; MAN and NEOPLAN city buses, travel coaches and intercity buses are now produced at the site in Ankara.