

 **FLEETCARE**

VR FleetCare Expands Its Service Offering – Strengthens the Small Series Production of Freight Wagons

The promotion of more efficient and sustainable modes of transport has been ongoing in both the EU and Finland for decades.

VR also wants to promote the growth of rail traffic, which increases the number of journeys and the transport of goods by rail. VR FleetCare offers the manufacture of freight wagons in its service workshops and specialises especially in the manufacture of small special series.

“The popularity of railway transport is increasing and there is a desire to shift more freight on to railways for climate reasons,” says Peter Guldbrand, Vice President, Commercial, VR FleetCare. *“If necessary, we are able to start manufacturing new freight wagons in line with the EU standard on a very fast schedule for both existing and new customers. Our production line is ready for commissioning, and the new wagons would be in service within six months of the order. FleetCare’s market area for wagon manufacturing could well be the whole of Europe.”*

At an accelerating pace, various industries are looking for solutions to meet the green transition and strict environmental standards. Logistics solutions are an

essential part of these. FleetCare is involved in the development of new transport solutions together with the steel and mining industries, among others, as the company is willing to find more innovative and sustainable transport solutions in terms of rail equipment.

The design and manufacture of special series requires different capabilities and agility. FleetCare reacts quickly to the changing world situation in Europe and now maintains GOST-standard wagons in Finland in addition to EU-standard freight wagons. The competence to maintain GOST wagons, acquired in record time, is backed by strong expertise in wagon maintenance and an extensive partner network. The freight wagon fleet maintained by FleetCare in Finland currently comprises approximately 10,000 wagons, which includes nearly 100 different wagon types.

Expertise in Several Different Wagon Types

The Pieksämäki service workshop has decades of experience in manufacturing EU-standard freight wagons and wagon modifications for different industrial uses. In addition, FleetCare has developed modular wagons which are suitable for transporting

Raw wood wagons manufactured by VR FleetCare for the needs of the forestry industry



several different raw materials. Technical solutions for freight wagons must also support new kinds of service concepts. The company adapts existing wagons to the changing needs of business models, which is lifecycle management at its best.

FleetCare has good production facilities and tools for manufacturing wagons, as well as expertise in the different areas of manufacturing. Its production line is ideally suited for efficient small series production, and the goal is to manufacture wagons with the best technical features that meet the new types of transport needs. Wagons are manufactured as a turnkey service. As an example, a total of almost 500 raw wood wagons have been completed by the service workshop's production line since 2008. The last batch of 80 wagons was launched in autumn 2022.

“For two decades now, we have applied the lean methodology in our production operations, which is also known as the principle of continuous improvement. This has enabled us to standardise the quality and efficiency of our production. We have a very broad range of competencies and a safe work environment, which produces highly committed employees. Finns are also known for their reliability. We keep our word and do things exactly as agreed,” Guldbrand says.

Case Study: Metro Tunnel Cleaning Wagon

Located in the middle of Finland, in Pieksämäki, VR FleetCare's service workshop also produces slightly more specialist equipment. Helsinki City Transport's metro tunnels are cleaned regularly, as careful cleaning of the tunnels improves both the safety and durability of the track and rolling stock.

FleetCare was tasked with designing a metro tunnel cleaning wagon that combines the circular economy, environmental friendliness and user ergonomics. The tunnel cleaning wagon that is currently in use has been built on top of a freight wagon that was previously in other use, and only ecological detergents are used in it.

“In accordance with the wishes of City Transport, we designed and implemented an environmentally friendly solution for City Transport to clean the metro tunnels and improve the air quality and general operating environment of the platforms. The service workshop's



Tunnel-cleaning wagon manufactured by VR FleetCare

production line is ideally suited for this kind of small series production of freight wagons and special equipment that use rails,” says Guldbrand.

The frame of the metro tunnel cleaning wagon is based on a modified freight wagon and is operated from a cabin equipped with cameras. The device is equipped with a water tank of eleven cubic metres filled with water from fire hydrants and a nozzle that can reach up to six metres, with pumps operated by a diesel generator. Furthermore, the wagon is equipped with front bristles that are suitable for washing the protective housings of the conductor rails.

Jaakko Laurila, Procurement Engineer at City Transport, is satisfied with the device: *“Unlike with the previous wagon, the user now has a well-illuminated closed cabin where they can sit instead of standing. The new scrubber is also more reliable and cost-effective: the washing tip has a range of 360 degrees, the washings are more efficient, and the water tank needs to be filled less frequently. In addition, the detergent for the conductor rail housing is now applied by the machine, whereas it was previously performed by spraying manually.”*

Click [here](#) to watch our tunnel cleaning video.

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Built to serve in Nordic conditions.



Efficient small series production to meet today's requirements

VR FleetCare is a maintenance services provider and a partner in responsible lifecycle management. As a rail traffic expert with over 160 years of experience, we have the best expertise in freight wagon modifications and manufacturing. We manufacture freight wagons for demanding industrial needs.

100 different wagon types | Efficient production facilities | New service concepts | Circular economy utilised

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Lifecycle management, freight wagon manufacturing, and rolling stock leasing services