**Hankook Tire, Grupo Soledad and Transports Metropolitans de Barcelona finalise the agreement on bus tyre supply**

**Premium tyre maker Hankook and its Spanish vendor Grupo Soledad recently reached an agreement with Spain’s biggest transport company in the region of Catalonia, Transports Metropolitans de Barcelona (TMB). The tyre maker is now supplying its state-of-the-art city bus tyre line “SmartCity AU04+” for the TMB fleet.**

***Neu-Isenburg, Germany, 21 May 2019*** – Tyre maker Hankook will supply its tyres for over 1,100 buses from Barcelona’s most prominent urban bus transportation company, Transports Metropolitans de Barcelona. Principally the size 275/70R22.5 for the Hankook city bus line SmartCity AU04+ will be incorporated. This model line is especially designed for urban transportation, fulfilling the increasing customer demands for tyre solutions, also specifically for battery-powered urban buses. As these vehicles are generally heavier than conventional buses due to their energy storage units, the tyre-models also have an increased load index. The tread of the SmartCity AU04+, which has been designed as an all-year tyre, is suitable for all wintry conditions without restriction and sports the snowflake symbol (3PMSF). The new city bus tyre line-up is equally suitable for city buses with conventional drive concepts.

Han-Jun Kim, President of Hankook Tire Europe, states: “The agreement with one of Europe’s biggest urban transport companies makes us very proud; especially because it’s an agreement on the usage of our future-oriented technology. This will put the SmartCity AU04+, our first bus tyre line for electric-powered buses, on large-scale level on the road. We look forward to expanding our fleet cooperations in Europe, being always on track with new mobility trends.”

In the context of their shared environmental and economic responsibility, Hankook, Grupo Soledad and TMB agreed to use worn tyres after the first life cycle for a second as retreaded Hankook Alpha-Tread profiles. In this way, considerable amounts of fossil raw materials and CO2 can be saved for active environmental protection.

On the meeting day of the agreement Ramón Bacardí, the Director of TMB, stated: “The impeccable maintenance of our fleet is very important to keep the urban bus transportation in Barcelona running on the best level. Especially in regards to the tyres, it was important to find a reliable partner. With our business now mounted on Hankook tyres our technicians and workshop managers have found the first choice to maximize the performance of our fleet. At the same time, we have optimised the respective Total Cost of Ownership.”

The Commercial Director of Grupo Soledad, Manuel Pérez, added: “We are thrilled to have brought up this new cooperation with Hankook and TMB. Like us, both companies are constantly investing into new mobility concepts, materials and operation facilities. The cooperation thus perfectly underlines our commitment to sustainable transport solutions.”

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**About Hankook Tire**

Hankook Tire manufactures globally innovative, award winning radial tyres of proven superior quality for passenger cars, light trucks, SUVs, RVs, trucks, and buses as well as motorsports (circuit racing/rallies).

Aspiring to bring consumers the utmost excellence in product quality, technological excellence and driving satisfaction, Hankook Tire continuously invests in research and development maintaining five R&D centres and eight production facilities around the world. Bespoke tyre solutions for the European markets as well as European Original Equipment according to the requirements of leading premium car manufacturers, are developed in the company’s regional Technical Centre in Hanover/Germany. Production for the European region is taking place in the state-of-the-art manufacturing site in Rácalmás/Hungary which was inaugurated in June 2007 and is continuously being expanded. Currently around 3,000 employees produce up to 19 million tyres a year for passenger cars, SUVs and light trucks.

Hankook Tire’s European headquarters are located in Neu-Isenburg near Frankfurt am Main in Germany. The manufacturer operates further branches in Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, UK and Ukraine. Hankook products are sold directly through regional distributors in other local markets. Hankook Tire employs approximately 21,000 people worldwide and are selling their products in over 180 countries. Internationally leading car manufacturers rely on tyres made by Hankook for their original equipment. Approximately 30 percent of the company's global sales are generated within the European and CIS-Region. Hankook Tire has been represented in the renowned Dow Jones Sustainability Index World (DJSI World) since 2016.

For more information please visit [www.hankooktire-mediacenter.com](http://www.hankooktire-mediacenter.com) or [www.hankooktire.com](http://www.hankooktire.com)

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