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NEW SHUNTING LOCO FOR SBB

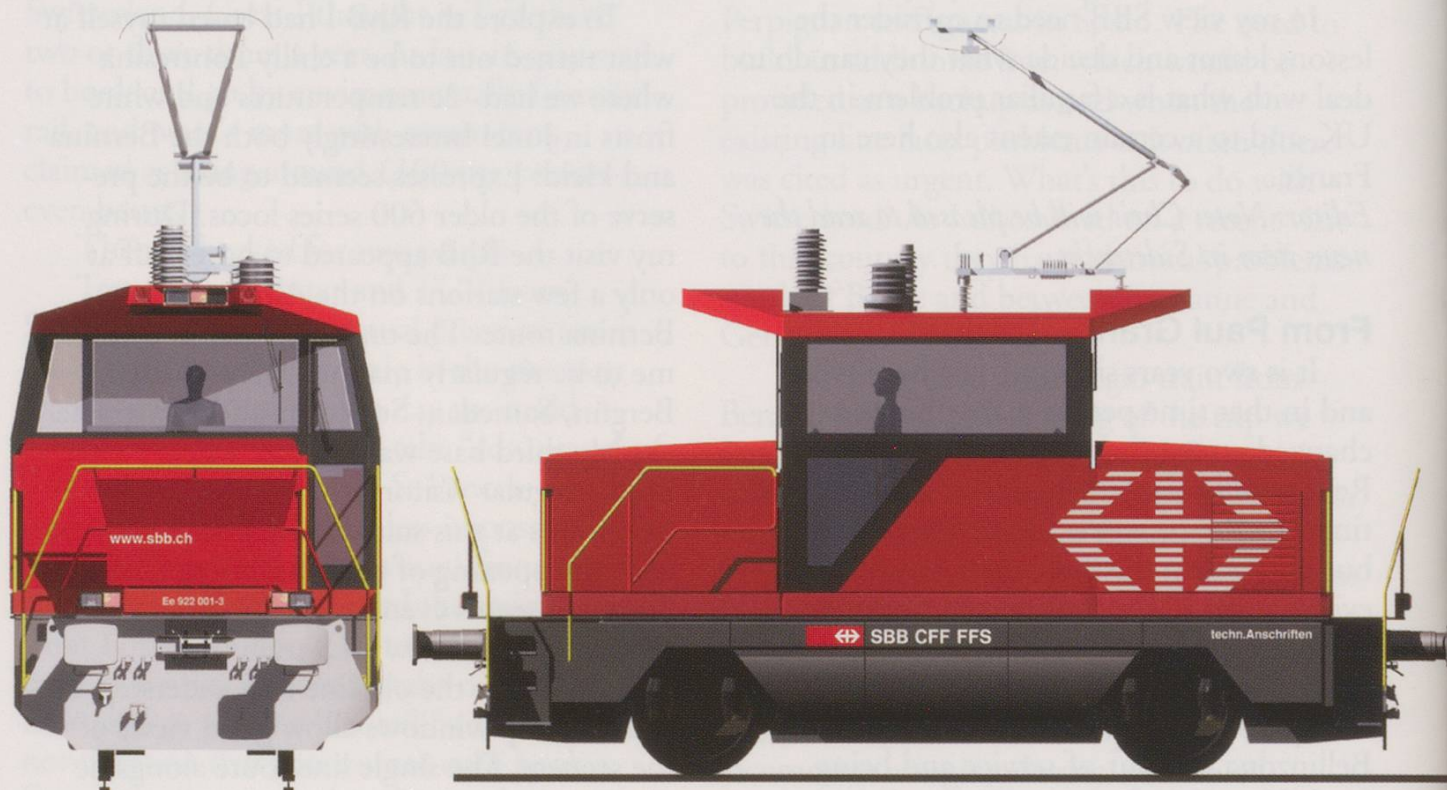


ILLUSTRATION: *Courtesy of the SBB.*

On July 3rd Swiss manufacturer Stadler handed over to SBB/CFF the first of 21 Class Ee 922 shunting locomotives. The locomotives will be deployed shunting passenger stock at seven major stations and will all be in service by the end of 2010. They will replace many of the existing fleet of Ee 3/3 locomotives some of which were first introduced into service as far back as the 1930s.

The CHF40m order for the locomotives was placed by the SBB with Stadler Winterthur only in December 2007. The new engines have a power rating of 750 kW and they are equipped for both 15 Kv 16.7 Hz and 25 Kv 50 Hz power supplies for use at border stations including Basel. Although few of the new locomotives will actually be required to operate at 25 Kv, apparently with modern technology the additional cost of giving this equipment the flexibility to be

able to be moved around the network was so little that it was considered to be a worthwhile investment. According to the manufacturer the Ee 922 will be able to pull a 700 tonne train up a 0.6% gradient.

The Ee 922 is based on a product family developed by Stadler for shunting and freight services. These are available in two power categories, 750 kW and 1500 kW, and can also be supplied as electro-diesels.

At the handover Jürg Gygax, Chief Executive of Stadler Winterthur, noted that 'Stadler were able to hand over the vehicle to the customer within only 18 months from the award of the contract. We have thereby provided an impressive demonstration of our capability. The Ee 922 is also the first electrical locomotive to leave our factory that has been completely manufactured by Stadler Winterthur.'