

Release date: 2 June 2008

NORTH EAST TRUCK & VAN TAKES SCHMITZ CARGOBULL BY THE HORNS

Schmitz Cargobull, one of Europe's leading trailer manufacturers, has taken delivery of its first new Iveco Stralis 44-tonne tractor unit from North East Truck & Van (NETV), as part of a radical move which sees it bring its transport function in-house.

The Stralis AS440S45TX/P benefits from Iveco's flagship Active Space Super³ cab and will be used to transport trailers and original equipment parts from ports in the North East of England to the Schmitz Cargobull factory in Harelaw, County Durham – located just seven miles from NETV's head office and flagship dealership.

Philip Robson, Schmitz Cargobull Transport Manager says: "The purchase of the Stralis is a new venture for us as we have previously used contractors to collect and deliver both spares and new trailers in the UK to customers. Moving the transport back in-house is designed to give us greater control and added flexibility.

"When we first entered negotiation with NETV we made it clear that we needed the vehicle delivered in a short space of time, and they have met this requirement - ahead of a very tight schedule. NETV has also been on-hand to support us every step of the way, including carrying out a professional vehicle handover where all of the vehicle's controls were explained and demonstrated to our driver," he adds.

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Finished in Schmitz Cargobull's white and grey livery, the Stralis has been supplied on a three year operating lease with Iveco Capital which will see all servicing carried out by NETV in Blaydon – one of eight NETV dealerships spanning the North and North East of England.

The Stralis is powered by Iveco's Cursor 10 engine which is capable of producing up to 450 hp between 1,550 and 2,100 rev/min and up to 2,100 Nm of torque between 1,050 and 1,550 rev/min, whilst its ability to meet Euro 5 emissions standards ahead of their mandatory introduction in 2009 means it is eligible to receive a discount of £500 per year in Vehicle Excise Duty via the RPC (Reduced Pollution Certificate).

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Background information: North East Truck & Van (NETV) is a privately owned limited company and is the largest independent Iveco distributor in the UK, and winner of the Motor Transport Dealer of the Year Award 2005. It employs over 320 staff across its eight dealerships in Blaydon, Billingham, Carlisle, Hull, Immingham, Lincoln, Scunthorpe and York, and sells the full range of Fiat, Hino, Irisbus, Iveco and LDV new and used commercial vehicles. NETV is also a franchised aftersales dealer for MAN ERF, Seddon Atkinson and Alexander Dennis, offering 24 hour opening at its three largest sites, with late opening elsewhere and Sunday servicing by appointment. It also offers all-makes servicing and parts, with customers ranging from owner-drivers to large national fleets. The company benefits from a fast-developing Special Vehicle Operations (SVO) division and is the only Iveco dealer allowed to undertake SVO work on behalf of other distributors in the UK. It also carries out SVO work on vehicles from other manufacturers (work on Scania and Volvo models is particularly common). NETV has an annual turnover of £85 million, and routinely sells over 3,000 new and 600 used vehicles a year, with £1.7 million of parts held in stock.

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NETV/113/08