



March 9, 2017

Mercedes-Benz Vans places final steel beam in paint shop, marking significant progress in its expansion

All major structures erected; remaining construction on schedule

- **Workforce has doubled since March 2015 expansion announcement**
- **First body and paint shop team members have begun training with readySC**
- **and other Mercedes-Benz facilities**

Charleston, South Carolina– Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC (MBV) announced March 9, 2017 that the final steel beam has been placed in the paint shop structure, marking significant progress in its expansion to a full-scale production plant for the next generation Sprinter large van. On Wednesday, Yates Construction placed the final steel beam in the paint shop, bearing the signatures of MBV team members and the Yates Construction project team and subcontractors. The final beam signals significant progress in construction, and by April 2017 nearly all of the new plant buildings will be enclosed from weather. The current production area and administration building of the assembly plant in North Charleston cover 409,000 square feet. The new facility will additionally cover around 1.1 million square feet plus a 2.8 million square feet marshalling yard for finished vehicles. With this new full-scale production plant, Mercedes-Benz Vans will offer faster and more individualized supply of the next generation Sprinter to its North American customers. The new plant represents an investment of around 500 million US dollars, and MBV will create up to 1,300 jobs in total. Production is planned to begin before the end of the decade.

Hiring and Training

Since the new Sprinter plant was announced in March 2015, the MBV team has grown steadily and continues to welcome new team members each month. In addition to the growing team of specialists and engineers at MBV, the company has also begun recruiting for manufacturing positions for the future body, paint and assembly areas.

“Within the last two years, we have doubled the footprint of our site as well as our workforce to more than 200 team members. This is an exciting time for MBV as we build upon our more than ten-year history here in Charleston,” said Michael Balke, President and CEO of Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC.

In cooperation with readySC, one of the oldest and most experienced workforce training programs in the United States, MBV has hired the first training group for the new body and paint shop, consisting of both existing team members and external hires. The group has completed initial training with readySC and is currently traveling to existing Mercedes-Benz body and paint shops such as Tuscaloosa, Alabama and Düsseldorf, Germany to gain firsthand experience.

While focusing on technical skills, the training process also allows a chance for new team members to immerse themselves into the MBV culture. Michael Balke: “What sets us apart is the passion of our people - our unwavering commitment to build true excellence in our products and keep pushing the limits of what’s possible together as a team.”

Interested candidates can apply at either www.daimler.com/career keyword “Charleston” for specialist positions or www.readysc.org/mercedes for manufacturing positions.

About Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC

Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC (“MBV”) is a plant in South Carolina that assembles Sprinter large vans for the U.S. market under the brands Mercedes-Benz and Freightliner. The midsize Metris van was added to the assembly line in 2015. In March 2015, an investment of \$500 million was announced for a new Sprinter production plant at the MBV site, as an expansion of existing operations. In July 2016, MBV officially broke ground on the site of its new plant, located next to existing operations in North Charleston. The MBV facility will provide up to 1,300 jobs and start production of the next generation Sprinter by the end of the decade. Interested candidates can apply at either www.daimler.com/career keyword “Charleston” for specialist positions or www.readysc.org/mercedes for manufacturing positions.

Contact:

Alyssa Bean, +1 843 695 5061, alyssa.bean@daimler.com