



LOCON Buys Its First Electrics

On 7 October 2011 LOCON signed a contract with Siemens for two ES64F4 electrics and on 22 November 2011 both were handed over, Siemens taking them from its own fleet of white demonstrator/test/reserve locomotives held ready for quick delivery. The machines were 189 820 and 821 and are numbered LOCON 501 and 502 in the operator's internal numbering system. They are version VE, fitted and approved for operation in Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, Slovenia and Croatia. **Here we see 189 820/LOCON 501 on 19 November 2011 at Stadler's Reinickendorf works, where it was receiving its orange livery.**

The operating company's full title is LOCON LOGISTIK & CONSULTING AG. It has its head office in Seehausen, northeast of Berlin, and another office in the German capital. LOCON was founded in 2002 by four independent

individuals. It has subsequently developed as an important rail operator in Germany, hauling mainly intermodal trains and moving cellulose, both on domestic German routes and also hauling trains running from and to Belgium and the Netherlands. On account of this LOCON-BENELUX BV was founded in December 2010, so the company could provide its own haulage in these two countries. So far it is fully licensed for operation in the Netherlands, with licensing in Belgium planned too. LOCON-BENELUX BV has acquired four of the Class 1800 electrics which NS offered for sale (see R 1/10, p. 12), owns ex-SNCB diesels 6701, 6702, 6703 and 6705 and hires four diesel shunters from various lessors.

In addition to about 25 diesel locomotives (mainly type V100s, but including one Maxima 40 CC too), LOCON already had a number of electric locomotives, but so far these have been only on hire. There are two ES64F4s and one Class 185 from on hire from