



INFORMATION FROM THE BTL GROUP

Göteborg, 16 November 1998

Press release

BTL expands in the Baltic region

BTL is investing SEK 22 million in expanding its operations in Estonia and Latvia. The new Schenker-BTL transport and logistics centre in Riga will open on November 16 and in the spring a further logistics centre will be completed in Tallinn.

Since 1995 BTL has concentrated on establishing direct operations in the Baltic region and the Group now has subsidiaries in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. There are also extensive operations in Russia and Ukraine. Transport and logistics activities, which are run under the name Schenker-BTL, are now growing rapidly, with increased business in the commercial and industrial sectors.

"The demand for advanced transport and logistics services is increasing in the Baltic region. We need to satisfy customer requirements," says Eddie Sterner, head of the Land Transport Division at BTL. "Consequently we are investing SEK 22 million in new facilities in Tallinn and Riga."

The new Schenker-BTL facility in Riga includes a terminal, a warehouse, a logistics area and office space. The total area is 38,000 m², of which 6,000 m² is for warehousing and logistics. SIA Schenker-BTL will open its new premises officially on November 16.

"We can now offer the whole range of national and international land transport services, including rail services, alongside sea and air transport. We are also in a position to satisfy the customers' increasing need for value-added logistics solutions. Furthermore, our cooperation with the Latvian customs authority means that we are continually involved in modernising the Latvian customs system," says Matti Suonvieri, managing director of SIA Schenker-BTL in Latvia.

BTL is also investing in a new 4,000 m² logistics facility in Tallinn, which, among other things, will be equipped with IT systems designed specifically for logistics. The facility will be completed in the spring, following which Schenker-BTL AS in Tallinn will have over 11,000 m² of warehousing and logistics space.

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The BTL Group is the largest transport and logistics group in Scandinavia and one of the largest in Europe. Extensive sea and air transport operations are carried on through the wholly-owned Wilson companies in Europe, Asia, Australia, New Zealand and the USA. The Group has approximately 11,000 employees and net sales for 1997 totalled SEK 18 billion. Together with the German transport group Schenker, BTL has established Europe's leading land transport network under the Schenker-BTL name.