



PRESS RELEASE



Amtrak boosts delivery fleet with Mercedes Sprinters

17 October 2005... Amtrak Express Parcels is dispatching a new fleet of Mercedes-Benz vans across the UK to meet rapid expansion of its home delivery services. Amtrak has ordered 40 long-wheelbase, high-roofed Sprinter 311CDIs. Follow-up orders are also likely as Amtrak's ambitious growth strategy gathers pace.

Amtrak has seen rapid expansion in the last two years after winning a series of major home delivery contracts including Laura Ashley, Empire Direct, Comet and Kleeneze. Earlier this year, Amtrak took delivery of 50 new tractor units and 6 double-decker trailers as part of a multi-million pound new fleet investment

Supplied by Warrington dealer Enza, and leased through TSB Autolease, its new Mercedes Sprinters will replace a number of units that have been on short-term hire. Amtrak, who recently acquired overnight parcel company Nightspeed, now runs a fleet of 200 distribution vehicles and 1500 vans through a network of over 110 depots.

Safety was a key factor in the company's decision to place its latest order with Mercedes-Benz. The Sprinter's standard specification includes the ground-breaking ESP® stability program and ABS anti-lock braking, while Amtrak's new vans will also be limited to a top speed of 75mph and fitted with additional rear protection bars.

"Due to an upsurge in our parcel handling and delivery service to our core business customers, we needed to find a new vehicle which could provide a more efficient, cost-effective service," says Transport Manager Tony Jones. "The long-wheelbase, high-roofed Sprinter is ideally suited to our operation. Its huge cargo area and very acceptable payload will allow us to improve productivity by making more delivery 'drops' per day.

"The availability of night-time servicing, coupled with the Mercedes Service 24h emergency roadside assistance scheme, means we will be able to restrict downtime to an absolute minimum, thus relieving pressure on our delivery network," adds Mr Jones.

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