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## PRESS RELEASE

### Passenger numbers increase again

#### Positive conclusion for summer traffic on the RE27 route

Sassnitz-Mukran, December 05, 2024 - Mukran Port, VMV - Verkehrsgesellschaft Mecklenburg-Vorpommern mbH and Hanseatische Eisenbahn GmbH (HANS) are pleased with the results of the RE27 train service between Bergen auf Rügen and the ferry port of Sassnitz. Passenger numbers on the train connection have risen again compared to the previous year, with an increase of around 43 percent. The new Thursday departures were also well received. In addition to guests from all German federal states, the service is also popular with international travelers, especially from Scandinavia.

This development confirms the need for increased connections to tourist destinations via climate-friendly means of transport. "The rise in passenger numbers is impressive proof that investing in public transport not only benefits the climate, but also strengthens the local and regional economy through the increase in tourists and visitors," explains Fridjof Ostenberg, Managing Director of Mukran Port. "For the port region and the entire island of Rügen, the growing rail traffic is a valuable addition to promote sustainable tourism."

VMV mbH is also satisfied with the response to the additional offer: "This positive development is a clear signal that travelers are increasingly opting for climate-friendly alternatives," emphasizes Daniel Bischof, Managing Director of VMV-Verkehrsgesellschaft Mecklenburg-Vorpommern mbH. "The train connection of the HANS directly to the ferry port of Mukran in the summer months is a small but important part of our mobility offensive in the state and makes public transport in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern even more attractive and sustainable, both for the population and for holidaymakers."

Hanseatische Eisenbahn GmbH, the transport company commissioned by the state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, also sees the summer transport initiative as an important step. "The steadily increasing number of passengers shows that awareness of climate-friendly mobility is growing. We are proud to be able to offer a sustainable transport solution for the Rügen region together with our partners," says René Haber-Henning, Managing Director of Hanseatische Eisenbahn GmbH.

The connection to Bergen auf Rügen station will not only improve the island's overall integration into the German transport network, but will also benefit Mukran Port and the ferry connections. Travelers can now easily change between local, regional and long-distance lines, making access to tourist destinations on Rügen and the port regions much easier. This improved connection strengthens Mukran Port as an important transport hub and at the same time promotes tourism in the entire region.

The successful partnership between Mukran Port, the state, VMV and HANS as well as the increasing demand from Germany and abroad show the importance of a growing and innovative public transport network. The aim is to continue to expand rail connections in the future through targeted measures and to promote sustainable, environmentally friendly tourism.

### **About Mukran Port**

The Mukran Port on Rügen offers everything that makes a modern multifunctional port on a total area of almost 430 hectares with ferry, rail, multipurpose and offshore terminals as well as extensive production and storage areas. Mukran Port offers ideal conditions for the offshore wind industry: there are already several offshore wind farms within a maximum radius of 30 nautical miles, which will be expanded in the coming years. Currently, four offshore wind farms are already being operated and maintained from Mukran Port.

### **About VMV - Verkehrsgesellschaft Mecklenburg-Vorpommern mbH (VMV)**

The state-owned transport company helps to implement the transport policy goals of the state government. It provides local rail passenger transport services (SPNV). It was founded in 1995 after the rail reform reorganized the state's responsibilities for regional rail transport. The Regionalization Act transferred responsibility to the individual federal states. According to the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Local Public Transport Act, the local authorities are responsible for local public transport on the roads, i.e. for buses and streetcars. Due to its supra-regional importance, public transport by rail remains under the administration of the state.

### **About Hanseatische Eisenbahn GmbH**

HANSeatische Eisenbahn GmbH (HANS) operates regional railroad lines in Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and Saxony-Anhalt. As a regional company, HANS focuses on sustainable mobility in rural areas, strengthens passenger transport and is committed to maintaining regional railroad lines. With customer centers and ticket counters, HANS enables direct customer contact on site and works closely with public transport authorities and municipalities on future-oriented transport concepts.