

Press Information

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GREGORY DISTRIBUTION GROWS BIO-LNG FLEET WITH VOLVO

Gregory Distribution is extending the use of Bio-LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) into its milk transshipment operation, with the arrival this week of 12 new Volvo FM Globetrotter LNG 6x2 tractor units for its Cullompton base – each expected to clock-up 200,000 km per year for the next five years.

The FM LNGs are joined by a further three new FH LNGs for its Avonmouth depot, increasing the number of gas-powered Volvos in the fleet to 35 – with recently announced plans by the company to transition at least five per cent of its fleet from diesel to cleaner fuels every year.

Supplied by Volvo Trucks UK & Ireland's national fleet team, the new FM's offer a payload advantage of nearly 700kg over the FH, making them perfect for hauling laden milk tankers around-the-clock.

Andrew Chapple, Director of Fleet, Property and Procurement for Gregory Distribution, says: "We put our first LNG trucks on the road 18 months ago and the reduction in carbon emissions have been clear to see. There is a growing expectation from our customers to help them in their own sustainability drive, and these Volvos are the perfect solution.

"For long-distance haulage, Bio-LNG is the most sustainable option on the market today and our drivers have welcomed the transition. Compared with diesel, these trucks offer the same driveability, reliability and service intervals; plus, they are around 50 per cent quieter too – which brings additional benefits from both a driver and delivery perspective."

Gregory Distribution has spec'd the FM's to meet Transport for London's three-star Direct Vision Standard (DVS) rating – ensuring they meet the minimum requirement to enter Greater London from 2024.

Each FM has been built to a high-specification, featuring four options packs designed to increase fuel-efficiency and driver appeal. These add key features including Volvo's intelligent I-See predictive cruise control, electrically controlled air-conditioning with sun sensor, remote central locking, twin armrests on the driver's seat, DAB radio, satellite navigation, rain sensing windscreen wipers and static corner lights.

Other options include Alcoa Dura-Bright aluminium rims and Michelin X Line Energy steer and pusher axle tyres, and X Multi Energy fitments on the drive axle, for low rolling resistance and maximum range.

The new vehicles are finished in Gregory Distribution's distinctive chocolate brown paint – one of 800 different hues, tints, and shades available from the Volvo Trucks factory.

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Power is provided by Volvo's proven G13C engine which delivers the same 460 hp and 2,300 Nm of torque as a standard 460 hp diesel.

The trucks will be fuelled from a skid-mounted Bio-LNG refuelling facility at the customer's Cullompton base, with the vehicle's range sufficient to tackle a return journey to the home counties. Plans are already in place with Gasrec to install a much larger four-bay station in Cullompton, as Gregory Distribution's biomethane-powered truck fleet continues to grow.

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Caption for photograph:

Gregory Distribution has extended the use of Bio-LNG into its milk transshipment operation, with 12 new Volvo FM Globetrotter LNG 6x2 tractor units

[l-r] Andrew Chapple, Director of Fleet, Property and Procurement for Gregory Distribution; Ryan Stuart, Director, Stuarts Truck & Bus and Dan Saunders, Technical Services Manager, Gregory Distribution.

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