



ADL - Enviro DD



ADL - Plaxton Panorama



ADL - Plaxton Panther



INDCAR

# PROPOSALS FROM THE UK

The Euro Bus Expo 2018, the biennial show in the UK for road passenger transport, focused on the brands of the European and British industry

The Euro Bus Expo ends the season 2018 of the trade fairs. The United Kingdom had therefore the responsibility to showcase products, accessories and services for bus transport.

The Euro Bus Expo took place on October 30-November 1 at the NEC in Birmingham, with 265 exhibitors and 8,950 visitors from fifty countries. The numbers are slightly inferior compared to the edition 2016 (291 exhibitors and 9,500 visitors). This is undoubtedly due to the difficult period that the British bus sector is experiencing, which has been decreasing since 2015. This year, the situation doesn't seem to be getting better since in the first ten months of 2018 the registrations have further decreased by almost 10% (source ACEA).

Nevertheless, the showcase that took place in Birmingham offered a wide selection of products, also focused on the reduction of the environmental impact of vehicles. The showcase

was quite rich, all vehicles were obviously with right-hand drive, and proposed not only by local manufacturers and coachbuilders, but also by the main European industrial brands. This reconfirms the international vocation of this fair.

The British **AlexanderDennis** displayed several vehicles of the well-known Enviro range. It premiered a super-customized version of the Enviro200 single-deck bus in the 11.5-meter size supported by the big double-decker Enviro400. The electric Enviro200EV, result of the **ADL-BYD** partnership between

the UK manufacturer and the Chinese manufacturer, was also repropoed. Over 215 units have been delivered or commissioned so far in the UK. On display, the 10.8-meter single-deck version complete with a compact EV charger that can be transported inside the vehicle and connected to the operator's power supply. It was then announced the launch in spring 2019 of the Enviro400 EV, the double-decker electric version branded **ADL-BYD**. AlexanderDennis displayed also a few models for touring services branded Plaxton (ADL group): the Panorama double-decker built on



MERCEDES - Citaro Hybrid

Volvo B11RLE chassis can accommodate 87 passengers and is accessible to more than one wheelchair via the lowered floor. The second vehicle is the Panther LE on Volvo B8RLE chassis, offered with a new step arrangement for easier access, luxury seats with high headrest (optional) and additional space for passenger legs, in addition to the central WC, that can be disassembled.

**Optare** unveiled its electric solutions with the Metrodecker and the Metrocity EV models. Both are equipped with fully electric heating and can deliver more than 240 km on a single charge. The Metrocity EV accommodates 60 passengers while the Metrodecker EV can accommodate up to 94 passengers. Optare showcased also the Solo xFE and the Euro 6 fuel-efficient Versa xFE with redesigned interiors for greater passenger comfort.

Another British manufacturer, **Mellor Coachcraft**, presented the premières of the





OPTARE



SCANIA - DD biogas



YUTONG - G 12



MAN - Tourliner

Strata Plus and the Strata Ultra. Both feature extended wheelbase and length and are built on the new Mercedes Sprinter 907. The first one is 8.1 meters long while the Ultra is 8.8 meters long. They can accommodate 26 and 30 passengers, respectively.

As for European brands, the British branch of **MAN Bus & Coach** focused on the Neoplan Tourliner with the 13.1-meter P10 version and the 13.4-meter P20 version. Both are powered by a 12.4-liter MAN D26 Euro 6c and coupled to ZF gearbox.

The Citaro Hybrid debuted on the British market under the **Mercedes-Benz** brand. It is complete with a compact hybrid module in the form of a 14-kW electric motor. Mercedes showcased also the new Sprinter City 75.

**Irizar UK** presented its new generation of coaches, all built on DAF chassis and coupled to ZF transmission: a 14-meter Irizar Integral i8, a 12.9-meter i6 (57 seats) and a 10.8-meter i6S with a capacity of 39 seats.

At the **Scania** stand, in addition to a hybrid bus chassis and the Scania Touring, it was displayed the 100th biogas-powered double-decker bus, manufactured by Scania in partnership with ADL. The Swedish manufacturer reminded that all Scania vehicles with combustion engine can operate on renewable fuels (biodiesel, biogas and Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil - HVO).

Among the touring coaches exhibited by **Van**

**Hool**, an EX16M and a TDX21 Altano for long-distance services with 16.1 cubic meters of luggage space and reserved space for passengers with reduced mobility (accessible via lift).

**VDL Bus & Coach** showcased the latest generation of Futura buses coupled, as standard, to the new ZF Traxon transmission, which is 100 kg lighter and ensures a 3% fuel saving. The MD9 and the Safari HD12 are branded **Temsa**. They were showcased in partnership with Arriva Bus and Coach, the exclusive supplier of the Turkish brand in the UK.

**Yutong**, the Chinese brand distributed in the UK by Pelican, premiered the new G12 coach, a 12.1-meter touring coach powered by a 450-hp DAF MX-11 engine and coupled to a ZF Eco Life gearbox. It can accommodate up to 53 passengers and is fitted with toilet. The 12.8-meter version will be manufactured in 2019 and the three-axle version is also scheduled. The medium-size TC9 and the electric E10 were also on display at the Pelican-Yutong stand.

Among the Iberian coachbuilders, **Indcar** exhibited in Birmingham the Wing 8.5 RHD on Iveco Daily chassis and the NEXT L9 RHD on Mercedes-Benz Atego.

Waiting for the next edition of the Euro Bus Expo (scheduled in 2020), the Coach & Bus UK exhibition will be held next year, on 2-3 October 2019 at the NEC in Birmingham. ●

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IRIZAR - i6S



TEMSA



VAN HOOL