



SCHRÖDER REISEN CHOOSES NEOPLAN

The bus operator based in Langenau, Germany, took delivery of 14 premium coaches. All Neoplan branded. The supply includes eight Tourliners and six Skyliners. This means that since April 2013, MAN Truck & Bus has delivered a total of 75 coaches to Schröder Reisen, 33 of which are from the NEOPLAN range. The NEOPLAN Skyliner double-deckers

can hold a maximum of 77 passengers. They are fitted with a folding ramp at door 2, toilet with large fresh water and waste water tanks, 230 volt socket under each double seat and USB ports in the seat backrests. They are also fitted with a trailer coupling and a ski rack bracket.

The three-axle NEOPLAN Tourliner coaches measure 13.9 meters in length and can transport a total of 52 passengers. ●

RECORD NUMBER FOR ELECTRIC BUSES

The largest electric bus fleet in Europe has been operating since April 1st. It consists of 100 articulated VDL Citeas Electric SLFA that the Dutch operator Connexxion deploys for the passenger service at and around the Schiphol airport in Amsterdam and on the public transport lines of the Amstelland-Meerlanden concession, in the province of North Holland.

“Operational availability of the electric buses has been maximized through an optimized rapid charging concept”, explained VDL Bus & Coach. “The batteries have an energy capacity of 169 kWh and can be charged with up to 420 kW power. This means that a fully discharged battery is recharged and ready for the next trip in 20 minutes or less. Charging downtime is therefore kept to a minimum.” Each night the buses are slowly charged and pre-heated so they start operation the next morning with a full battery and comfortably warm interior. Charging is done via a pantograph on the roof of the buses. 2 Heliox mobile chargers (25 kW) are also used. ●



SOLARIS IN GERMANY

At the beginning of April, the Bavarian bus operator SÜC Coburg took delivery of two Solaris Urbino 12 buses. The vehicles have a 2-2-0 door layout and are fitted with 26 seats (plus 4 folding seats) with an anti-graffiti coating, air conditioning, internal and external LED lighting systems, passenger information system, CCTV system and a fire-fighting system. The 224 KW drive unit boasts also a cold start function, facilitating ignition at low temperatures. The engine is aligned with

automatic gear box with a kick down function that helps traversing mountainous Bavarian roads. Solaris Bus & Coach has been operating on the German market since 2000. Since then the Polish manufacturer supplied over 3,000 buses and trolleybuses in total to that country. ●

BYD ELECTRIC BUSES IN SPAIN

The Chinese manufacturer signed a contract with the Catalan operator Tusgsal for the supply of eight BYD pure electric 12 metre buses. It's the second Spanish order for BYD after the tender awarded in 2017 for the delivery of one 12 metre ebus to bus operator EMT in Valencia. The eight e buses are expected to be delivered at the beginning of 2019 and soon after delivery they will service routes in the city of Badalona. Isbrand Ho, Managing Director at BYD Europe said: “Just a month after we confirmed the order of eight e buses to Portugal, a new market for BYD, we are delighted to have confirmed this Spanish order. Thanks to TUSGSAL, citizens in Badalona will benefit from improved air quality with the help of our buses. This development underlines BYD's growing market expansion across Europe - in this case in the competitive Iberian peninsula”. ●



SCANIA BUSES FOR NORWAY

Narvik, Norway. Here, approximately 210 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle, the local operator Boreal Buss took delivery of 26 new buses all Scania branded. The supply includes 16 Scania A30 buses, four Scania Citywides LE in the Suburban version, three Scania Citywides LE, two Scania Interlinks HD and one Scania Interlink LD. All the vehicle offer free wi-fi.

Boreal operates bus, tram and ferry lines throughout Norway, with a bus fleet of nearly 1,000 vehicles. ●

PRODUCTION PLANT IN THE USA

Van Hool will build a bus factory in Morristown, Tennessee, U.S. Van Hool announced that, once the facility is operational in the first quarter of 2020, they will employ 600 people and manufacture around 400 buses and commuter coaches annually for the North American public transport market. The ground breaking ceremony for the new site will take place at the end of this summer. Filip Van Hool, CEO at Van Hool, explained the choice for Morristown, Tennessee: “We are excited to announce the next step of the Van Hool group's global growth plans here in Morristown, Hamblen County, Tennessee. The investment of more than \$47 million confirms the more than 30-year presence of Van Hool on the American market. Today we are looking forward to building a state-of-the-art bus factory in Morristown to provide the entire North American market with high-quality buses and commuter coaches for transportation agencies from 2020 onwards”. Van Hool has delivered over 11,000 vehicles in North America since 1987. ●





ALSTOM IN THE NETHERLANDS

After being tested in France, Belgium and Germany, on April 9 Aptsis started a three-week road show in the Netherlands. Aptsis is the 100% electric mobility solution developed by Alstom and its subsidiary NTL. The vehicle will be tested together with the transport company QBuzz in Utrecht, Groningen and Assen and with the Rotterdamse Elektrische Tram (RET) in

Rotterdam. Awarded last year at Busworld Europe with the Innovation Prize, Aptsis is characterized by its large double doors and extensive windows (20% more than a classic bus) and the lounge area at the rear. The two steering axles minimize the turning radius and the footprint on the road (-25% compared to a conventional bus). Aptsis can be recharged overnight or during the day at the end of the line with a charging solution provided by Alstom. Rapid charging is carried out either via an inverted pantograph or via SRS, Alstom's innovative ground-based static charging system.

COMFORT CLASS IN CROATIA

Zaprešić, Croatia. The local tour operator AM Turist has chosen again the brand Setra for the renewal of its fleet. The last supply concerns seven vehicles from the ComfortClass 500 series. These S 515 HD coaches are fitted with 48 seats. AM Turist provides tour organizers with 20 coaches of the Ulm-based brand for multi-day tours across Europe. Since the market launch of the Setra ComfortClass six years ago, the Croatian company has ordered a total of 28 vehicles of this model series. "The quality of the coaches, the safety systems and the well-developed service network are unique in Europe", said Anto Jurić, senior partner of the family business founded in 1987, which pursues a strategy of ongoing investment and the further expansion of its all-Setra fleet.



HYBRID TRAMBUSES IN NORWAY

The Belgian bus manufacturer Van Hool has signed a contract with the local operators Nettbuss and Tide based in Trondheim, Norway, for the supply of 58 bi-articulated Exqui-

City trambuses. The vehicles are 24-meter long in the hybrid (HVO diesel-electric) version. These buses will be utilised by the two local operators who run the buses on behalf the public transport company in Trondheim (ATB): Nettbuss (44 units) and Tide (14 units). The first 2 units will be delivered in December 2018 (one vehicle for each operator). All the remaining trambuses will be delivered between March and June 2019. This is the largest order that Van Hool has ever secured for its trambus, which has been available in the market since 2011. More than 250 units have been ordered in 11 countries to date.



VDL ELECTRIC BUSES FOR ARRIVA GROUP

From April 1, nine VDL Citea SLF-120 Electric buses are in regular service on lines 8 and 9 in 's-Hertogenbosch, southern Netherlands. These vehicles are a follow-up order of 2016 for three electric Citeas supplied by VDL Bus & Coach to Arriva Netherlands.

The vehicles are equipped with a new technology that allows the quick recharge of batteries at the terminus through a pantograph on the roof of the bus. These buses have a three-door configuration and offer USB points and Wi-Fi sockets. Arriva Netherlands is part of the Arriva Group, owned by Deutsche Bahn. Arriva is a leading passenger transport company operating in 14 European countries.



TROLLEYBUSES IN POLAND



Solaris Bus & Coach has signed a contract with the city of Gdynia, Poland, for the delivery of 30 trolleybuses. The order consists of 16 articulated Trollino 18 vehicles in addition to 14 Trollinos 12. The trolleybuses will be fitted with additional batteries which enable driving off the traction line. The Solaris Trollino 12 vehicles will have

batteries with a capacity of 58 kWh, while the 16 articulated units will be equipped with 87 kWh batteries. This means that both types will be able to cover a distance of dozens of kilometers in zero-emission mode without the use of the pantograph. In addition to trolleybuses, Solaris will also provide batteries that will allow the modernization of 21 other vehicles. Replacement of nickel-cadmium batteries with lithium-ion ones, together with appropriate power electronics, is a huge technological leap, which will allow for a zero-emission ride circa 15-20 kilometers without connection to traction. Modernization of trolleybuses begins this spring, while the supply of the trolleybuses to Gdynia will begin in September this year and shall be completed by spring 2019.

BLUE BIRD FOR ELECTRIC BUSES

The US bus manufacturer Blue Bird has received all the required certifications for its electric school buses which are now in pre-production. The company also opened the order books and their EVs qualify for grants available in California and New York respectively. The Blue Bus powertrain was developed together with Adomani, Inc. and Efficient Drivetrains, Inc. (EDI). The electric school buses feature the EDI PowerDrive 7000 EV drivetrain system with up to 160 kWh lithium-ion battery packs. The buses are expected to deliver up to 120 mile range (193 km).

