**MERCEDES HYBRID BUSES FOR KRAKOW**

Krakow, Poland. The public transport authority MPK Krakow (Miejskie Przedsiębiorstwo Komunikacyjne S.A. w Krakowie) has placed an order for the supply of 86 Mercedes-Benz city buses (56 Citaro and 30 Citaro hybrids). The vehicles will be arriving from September 2018. Another contract for Mercedes-Benz buses was signed at the beginning of May in Gdansk, a Polish city on the Baltic coast. The Gdansk public transport authority GAiT (Gdanskie Autobusy i Tramwaje) commissioned to Daimler Buses 46 Mercedes-Benz Citaro buses. The vehicles will be handed over to GAiT in the spring of 2019. A further order was placed in the first half of this year by the city of Bialystok, North-East Poland, for 18 Mercedes-Benz Conecto buses to be delivered towards the end of the year to Bialystok’s public transport operator.

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**IVECO BUS FOR RATP**

The state-run Parisian public transport operator RATP, has signed a contract for the supply of 18-meter natural gas buses from the Iveco Bus ‘Natural Power’ range. The order follows the awarding of an European tender issued by RATP. Up to 150 Urbanway buses will be delivered between 2019 and 2024 according to the needs of the Parisian company. Manufactured at the Iveco Bus plant in Annonay, the vehicles are powered by compressed natural gas or biomethane. “100% compatible with the biomethane obtained from waste”, the manufacturer explains, “the Natural Power range of Iveco Bus guarantees neutral carbon emissions, as well as a practical progress towards the energy transition”. The manufacturer supports RATP as part of the “BUS 2025” plan, which aims to replace the current fleet with non-polluting solutions. Iveco Bus is an European leader in the field of natural gas vehicles with almost 6,000 buses operating throughout Europe.

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**SOLARIS ELECTRIC BUSES FOR HAMBURG**

The Hamburg public transport operator has chosen Solaris Bus & Coach for the supply of ten electrically powered buses. The first two units will be delivered in autumn this year and the remaining ones in September 2019. The Solaris Urbino 12 buses can accommodate up to 70 passengers (25 seated) and the axle with integrated electric motors will constitute the drive unit. The Solaris High Energy batteries will boast a total capacity of 240 kWh. The buses will be recharged at the bus depot, using a plug-in charger. The Senate of Hamburg has decided that, as of 2020, all buses bought by local carriers should be electric zero-emission vehicles. Solaris electric buses are already operating in Hamburg: five units serve the 109 line dedicated to low and zero-emission vehicles. Two of the 18.75-meter Urbino electric buses supplied in 2014 are equipped with hydrogen fuel cells.

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**ADL DOUBLE-DECKER HYBRID BUSES**

The transport operator Abellio put on service in London this month a further 16 new Enviro400H double deck hybrid buses manufactured by Alexander Dennis Limited (ADL). The new hybrid buses will boost the Abellio London fleet towards the 800-vehicle mark, with 85% of those made by ADL. Business between the two companies now totals over £100m since 2011. Abellio is owned by Dutch railway operator Nederlandse Spoorwegen and has bus and rail operations in Germany and the United Kingdom.

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**VDL ELECTRIC BUSES IN SWEDEN**

Umeå, Sweden. The Municipality has announced that VDL Bus & Coach is the winner of the tender for the supply of 25 electric-powered buses. For the Dutch manufacturer this is the largest order of electric buses in the Swedish borders. VDL has been selected as system provider, which means that in addition to delivering the 25 Citea SLFA-180s and charging stations, it will also be responsible for the implementation. The vehicles are fitted with a rooftop pantograph, a 169 kW battery, 48 seats, USB connections and “Nordic Pack” which includes extra features such as additional insulation and heating to cope with the cold Swedish weather. The bus service in Umeå is provided by Transdev Sverige AB. The buses will be put in service in June 2019.

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**OTOKAR WITH ALLISON TRANSMISSION**

Five years after first experiencing buses fitted with fully automatic Allison transmissions, Gaziantep Transportation Co. (Gaziulâş) has declared they will convert the entire fleet to Allison transmissions. About one third of the current Gaziulâş fleet consists of Otokar Doruk 220 LE low-floor buses with Allison Torqmatic T 280 transmissions, featuring retarders to extend the brake life. Recep Tokat, general director of Gaziulâş, said: “We prefer fully automatic transmission equipment for our buses because they eliminate driver mistakes and contribute to passenger comfort. Our automatic vehicles have exceeded 300,000 km and have not encountered any problems caused by the transmission”.

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**FLASH NEWS**

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MAN FOR THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Sharjah RTA is the first bus company in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to roll out MAN Lion’s Coaches featuring assistance systems for increased safety. The MAN Lion’s Coach buses handed over by Sharjah RTA are fitted with devices such as Emergency Braking System (EBA), Lane Guard System (LGS) and Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC). As its next step, the Arab company has ordered another eight MAN Lion’s Coaches. The vehicles comply with the Euro 5 EEV emission standard, meeting cutting edge environmental standards as well as ensuring safety.

ADL-BAE SYSTEMS HYBRID BUSES

Go-Ahead London has taken delivery of the first 39 Enviro400H buses with Series-E hybrid technology. The double-deck hybrid buses are manufactured by Alexander Dennis Limited (ADL) and BAE Systems. Fitted with an ultra-capacitor energy storage instead of the previous generation’s batteries, the Enviro400H bus with Series-E hybrid technology has achieved an Ultra Low Emission Bus certification with 37% lower greenhouse gas emissions than conventional diesel buses. ADL explains: “Series-E maintains the series hybrid system architecture – proven in over 1,300 existing Enviro400H hybrid buses – in which the diesel engine only acts as generator to produce energy for the electric drive. This now utilizes a lighter and more compact direct drive permanent magnet traction motor, which no longer requires a speed reducing gearbox, thereby increasing efficiency and minimising wear.” Go-Ahead London is the pioneering launch customer for this next generation Enviro400H, with the first 39 buses entering service on Transport for London route 36. Another 26 are on order for routes 77 and 87.

VDL ELECTRIC BUSES IN SCANDINAVIA

On May 8, Unibuss AS has placed an order for 40 VDL Citea electric buses. This includes 30 Citea SLFA-180 Electric with 169 kWh battery pack and 10 Citea SLF-120 Electric with 127 kWh battery pack. The vehicles will serve the Greater Oslo Region. The first units will be delivered by the end of 2018 and they will be put into service in spring 2019. This is the largest order for VDL electric buses in Scandinavia to date. Oslo’s ambition is for all of the city’s public transport to be emission-free in ten years’ time. The Norwegian town is also being chosen as European Green Capital of 2019.

LARGE ORDER FOR MERCEDES CITARO

The German transport operator Berliner Verkehrsbetriebe (BVG) is to take delivery of up to 950 units of the best seller Mercedes-Benz city bus. The framework agreement between Daimler Buses and BVG breaks down into 600 articulated buses and a maximum of 350 solo buses. BVG will call off the city buses successively in the coming years. All Citaros are equipped with highly efficient and low-emission engines in accordance with the latest European emissions directive. With total sales in excess of 50,000 vehicles, the Citaro is the world’s best-selling city bus. In Europe it is in service in virtually all countries and major cities. Initially launched in 1997, the second generation was introduced in 2011. The range comprises solo and articulated buses, city and rural service vehicles and the low-entry Citaro LE. The four-axle large-capacity CapaCity bus is also based on the Citaro. In 2012 it became the first city bus to comply with the Euro VI emissions level. The latest developments are the Citaro hybrid bus and the fully electric Citaro. The latter will go into series production in the course of this year.

AUTONOMOUS DRIVE IN SWEDEN

Premiere of buses with autonomous drive in Gothenburg, Sweden. The inaugural journey took place at the campus of Chalmers University of Technology, Johanneberg Science Park. Here an autonomous shuttle bus moves people between the main entrance of the university and the Chalmers library. The bus-project in Gothenburg is part of the Government’s innovation partnership program called “The next generation’s travel and transport”. This is the second project of its kind in Scandinavia and is the result of a partnership between fifteen organizations and companies related to mobility, urban planning and transport. After the four-week trial in the Chalmers area, the project will move in autumn to Lindholmen Science Park, the growing innovation cluster in Gothenburg, where a large part of Sweden’s vehicle technology development is taking place. There, the project continues for a six-month period.

FIRST ORDER OF THE CITARO ELECTRIC

Hamburger Hochbahn AG has placed an order for 20 fully electric Mercedes Citaro buses. The first two units will be handed over before the end of this year. Till Oberwörder, Head of Daimler Buses: “The first major order for our fully electrically powered, emission-free Citaro has been received even before the official premiere, demonstrating the confidence transport operators have in our concept for electromobility in urban public transport. With the Citaro, we are bringing a major component on the way to locally emission-free bus traffic to market.” The new, fully electrically powered Citaro will enter series production before the end of this year.