



PRESS RELEASE

Solaris hybrid bus protects the environment in the Ruhr Area

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On 4th January 2008, Bochum-Gelsenkirchener Straßenbahnen AG officially launched the first hybrid bus in Germany's most populous state, North Rhine-Westphalia. The environmentally friendly bus of the Solaris Urbino 18

Hybrid model was manufactured by Solaris Bus & Coach.

Good news for the environment in the Ruhr Area right at the start of the new year: In an official ceremony on 4th January 2008, Bochum-Gelsenkirchener Straßenbahnen AG (BOGESTRA) launched the first hybrid bus in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany's most populous state. The 18 metre articulated bus protects the environment with its innovative hybrid drive, which combines a diesel engine and two electric engines. Experience by previous customers of the Solaris Urbino 18 Hybrid has shown that this technology enables a reduction in fuel consumption of between 15 and 30 per cent.

The technology of the future used in the Solaris Urbino 18 Hybrid has been proven in hundreds of city buses in North America. It was developed by Allison Transmission. The manufacturer of the hybrid bus operated by BOGESTRA, Solaris Bus & Coach, presented the first European hybrid bus based on this volume-production technology at the IAA Nutzfahrzeuge 2006 exhibition in Hanover. Today, the model is operated in Dresden and Leipzig in Germany as well as in the Swiss city of Lenzburg. BOGESTRA is the third German customer of the Solaris Urbino 18 Hybrid.

The municipal operator of urban public transport in Bochum, Gelsenkirchen and neighbouring towns and cities has been a customer of Solaris for several years. Its fleet already includes 31 buses carrying the green dachshund, the trademark of Solaris. Among them is the 500th Solaris supplied to Germany, handed over in 2006. At BOGESTRA, the trusty dachshund goes by the name of "Poldi" and in future, it will have two "hearts" - diesel and electric engines - when operating on busy route 345 in Bochum.

The new hybrid bus accommodates around 130 passengers, 50 of which will be seated. As in the conventionally powered sister vehicles already in operation on the route, passengers of the Solaris Urbino 18 Hybrid will enjoy a high level of comfort. Air conditioning, tinted windows and an access ramp for wheelchair users ensure a pleasant journey for everyone. On top of this, passengers will now benefit from particularly gentle driving dynamics and low noise levels thanks to the hybrid drive, which combines the two "hearts" of diesel engine and electric motors.

- We are proud that the fourth Solaris hybrid bus will be operating with BOGESTRA in one of Europe's largest conurbations - commented deputy chairwoman Solange Olszewska on occasion of the delivery.
- Over the next couple of months, further Solaris Urbino 18 Hybrid will enter service, among other places, in Bremen and we are delighted to pursue an active role in reducing the stress on the environment in Germany.

The parallel hybrid drive of the 18 metre articulated Solaris Urbino 18 Hybrid combines a 250 kW (340 hp) Cummins diesel engine with the Allison Transmission Ep DRIVE. In this central component of the power train, two electric engines produce 75 kW each and clutches and planetary gearboxes ensure the optimal mix of power supply. The electric power unit allows regenerative braking and energy recuperated in this way is stored in special batteries, ready to be re-used for acceleration. With these ground-breaking technologies, the hybrid bus reduces fuel consumption and emissions. The Solaris Urbino 18 Hybrid therefore plays a vital role in protecting humans and environment alike by offering lower emissions of CO₂ and particulate matter.

Additional information

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About our company

Solaris Bus & Coach sp. z o.o. is a leading producer of city and intercity buses in Europe. It focuses on the development of low-emission and zero-emission vehicles, i. e. electric and hydrogen buses as well as trolleybuses. Over 25,000 Solaris vehicles have been delivered so far and they ply the streets in 850 towns and cities across 33 countries located throughout Europe as well as beyond it. Solaris is part of the Spanish CAF Group (Construcciones y Auxiliar de Ferrocarriles) S.A. From conception, to the design and manufacturing phases, all Solaris buses are produced in Poland. All activities undertaken by the company are in line with its mission, which is reflected in the brand's promise: to change the image of public transport. Solaris also actively partners with public transport operators and provides them with comprehensive support in their transition to zero-emission mobility. Solaris products have been repeatedly awarded for quality and innovation. The Urbino 18 hydrogen bus has won the prestigious 'Bus of the Year 2025' title.