



PRESS RELEASE

Experience in Future Transport: Solaris at the Vienna UITP Congress

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From 7-11 June 2009, Solaris Bus & Coach will showcase its "Experience in Future Transport" at the 58th UITP World Congress in Vienna. In hall B, stand 2D600, Solaris will present the environmentally-friendly Solaris Urbino

18 Hybrid and the innovative Solaris Urbino New Edition.

Only 13 years after the start of production, Solaris Bus & Coach delivered the 5000th bus built in its Bolechowo factory in May 2009, reaching another landmark in the company's history. Yet the focus remains on looking ahead: with latest technology for diesel-electric and pure electric public transport, Solaris affirms its commitment to sustainable transport which protects our climate and environment. At the UITP Congress in Vienna, the young manufacturer will showcase its spirit of innovation by presenting future mobility already available today.

Solaris Urbino 18 Hybrid

As early as 2006, Solaris Bus & Coach presented the groundbreaking Urbino 18 Hybrid, Europe's first city bus using volume-production hybrid technology. These vehicles have been delivered to customers in ten cities in four European countries. They have accumulated a total mileage of over 500 000 km in demanding passenger service. The experience gained from this operation benefits continued improvements to the innovative hybrid bus. Fuel consumption verified in customer service already shows savings of up to 25% compared with similar conventional diesel buses.

The 18-metre articulated Solaris Urbino 18 Hybrid uses the E^P50 hybrid system developed by Allison Transmission. Two electric engines supply a combined total power of 150 kW, assisting the Cummins ISBe5 250B diesel engine. Thanks to engine downsizing, this 6.7-litre engine is rated at only 178 kW (242 PS). Energy recuperated during braking is stored in dedicated nickel-metal hydride batteries mounted on the roof of the vehicle and is re-used for subsequent acceleration. The operational lifetime of the batteries will be at least six years, the purchase cost calculation of the Solaris hybrid bus includes a replacement battery pack.

Independent tests have confirmed a fuel savings potential of between 22% and 24% in all SORT cycles. The experience of customers of the Solaris Urbino 18 Hybrid however shows that this level can be surpassed in real operation. Operators also praise the excellent availability of the Solaris hybrid bus, which is comparable to conventional diesel buses. The current total accumulated mileage of over

500 000 km has been achieved with no failures of hybrid system components.

"Through the real operation of our Solaris Urbino 18 Hybrid bus in ten European cities, we have been able to gather valuable experience in widely diverging operational conditions. Our thanks are due to our customers, without whose partnership and trust we would not have been able to follow this exciting path. Their positive experiences fully confirm our early choice for a sustained application of hybrid technology," explained Solaris CEO Solange Olszewska.

The environment and climate benefit from the reduced emissions of the Solaris Urbino 18 Hybrid. Against comparable conventional diesel buses, the Solaris hybrid bus emits 13% less NO_x, 25% less CO₂ and 32% less hydrocarbons. Emissions of carcinogenic particulate matter even are up to 78% lower.

Based on the experience gained with the Solaris Urbino 18 Hybrid bus in real operation, Solaris Bus & Coach will extend its hybrid product range in the coming years. As soon as next year, a 12-metre hybrid will tap into savings potential on less busy city bus routes.

Solaris Urbino New Edition

The Solaris Urbino family of low floor city buses celebrated its 10th birthday in May 2009. Its success story continues unabated: In 2008 alone, more than 1000 new Urbino buses were delivered to customers. The success spurs Solaris on to further development: the Solaris Urbino New Edition showcases ideas for the evolution of the popular low floor bus. The completely redesigned interior creates a trendsetting travelling experience. Latest technology makes the jobs of drivers and maintenance crews easier.

The core feature of the attractive new interior is a ceiling of illuminated plastic sheets. Their luminosity creates a unique travelling experience. Uninterrupted illumination levels reduce blind spots and contribute to passengers' sense of safety. Seats and side panels are included in the integral design and are resplendent in light and fresh colours. Large-size prints on the engine housing complete the picture while offering new possibilities for operator customisation.

Solaris Bus & Coach has developed a new dashboard tailored to drivers' needs. Using latest touch-screen technology, it features contextual availability of operating controls. The uncluttered feel allows the driver to concentrate on the job at hand. Its excellent adaptability means that the bus can be updated to changing operational requirements throughout its service life.

Solaris CEO Solange Olszewska said: *"The Solaris Urbino New Edition makes tomorrow's public transport available today. Travelling on buses is an integral part of our daily lives and with the Urbino New Edition, passengers will find a travelling experience so pleasant they will hardly want to get off at their destination."*

Solaris on Interurban Routes: New Intercity Bus

Set to expand the Solaris product range is a newly developed, high-floor intercity bus. Featuring a choice of key specifications, it will offer excellent possibilities for demanding interurban services as well as private hires and tough school runs. The two-axle bus will be available in lengths of 12 and 13 metres. It will maintain the highest standards of comfort, safety and easy maintenance that have long been a hallmark of the Solaris Urbino.

Its competitive prices will make the new Solaris intercity bus an extremely attractive choice for rural services. At the same time, the exterior design will use elements of the Urbino family of low floor buses to offer a product which will be as visually appealing as it will be economically viable. The premiere of the new Solaris high-floor intercity bus is planned for autumn 2009.

Electric Routes to the Future

Also set to make its long-awaited debut in autumn 2009 is the Solaris Tramino low floor tram. With its full low floor construction, it will offer a step-free passenger saloon throughout. The use of continuous-axle bogies will ensure excellent running characteristics even in less than ideal track conditions. All vehicle components will be supplied by experienced rail industry suppliers. The final assembly of the 31.7-metre, five-section pre-production vehicle is currently under way. The Solaris Tramino will combine innovative solutions for rail-based urban transport with Solaris's long-standing experience in building high-quality city transport vehicles to offer a state-of-the-art vehicle at competitive prices.

Electric mobility also is a core competence of Solaris Bus & Coach when applied to road transport. Solaris's experience as a leading European manufacturer of trolleybuses and its extensive know-how in hybrid technology application together form a sound basis for the development of full electric buses independent of overhead power supply. Solaris has assembled a team of experts led by Solaris founder Krzysztof Olszewski which will achieve the commercialisation of all-electric bus technology in the next decade. With the all-electric bus, Solaris will once again lead the way in bringing sustainable mobility to our cities.

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.