



PRESS RELEASE

Solaris to present new generation hydrogen bus

Bolechowo, 20.06.2018

In response to growing interest of the European market in emission-free public transport vehicles, Solaris Bus & Coach announced the debut of yet another of its environmentally friendly buses. The group of vehicles with alternative drives will be extended by the Solaris Urbino 12 hydrogen, a new generation, hydrogen vehicle, deriving power from a hydrogen fuel cell. The official premiere of the vehicle is slated for 2019.

The Solaris Urbino 12 hydrogen will be completely emission-free. Energy needed to power the driveline of the bus will be obtained from hydrogen which will be processed in a fuel cell to electric power. Thanks to the technology used in the hydrogen buses, (of all the firm's electric buses) these will be able to cover a record-long distance on a single refuelling – over 350 km. The vehicle will be also fitted with one of Solaris' small High Power traction battery of 29.2 kWh which is to support the fuel cell when the demand for energy is biggest. The battery will be charged with hydrogen energy. In addition, it will be possible to recharge it by means of a plug-in charging outlet (as is the case in standard electric buses). On the other hand, an axle with integrated electric motors, with a nominal power of 60 kW each, will constitute the drive unit. The twelve-metre bus will boast a substantial passenger capacity, as it will be able to carry up to 80 travellers.

The new generation Solaris Urbino 12 hydrogen represents the continuation and development of a concept which saw the light of day in 2014 for the first time, when two articulated electric buses (Solaris Urbino 18,75) powered with hydrogen fuel cells as range extenders, were delivered to Hamburg. Batteries constituted the basic drive source of the buses showcased four years ago. In the new hybrid bus, electric energy propelling the vehicle will be derived from hydrogen, whereas the battery will only have a support function.

This is not the only state-of-the-art solution available in the new vehicle. The twelve-metre Solaris Urbino hydrogen will be equipped with cutting-edge fuel cells of the latest generation, boasting a power of 60 kW. The producer is using also the latest hydrogen storing technologies, by installing hydrogen tanks made of composites on the vehicle roof – thanks to this step the mass of the tanks will be reduced by about 20% compared to previous models. In order to optimally reduce energy use in the vehicle, it will feature a climate comfort system with a CO₂ heat pump; the system will allow to use waste heat from the fuel cell. This is a completely novel proposition that is to guarantee extraordinary efficiency while significantly improving the driving range of the bus.

“The revolution in terms of green public transport has become a fact – Solaris has decided to respond to market demand with a whole new product. Hydrogen buses have the potential to be very popular on the market: they are cheap in use, lighter than electric buses, can cover a distance of 350 km on a single hydrogen refuelling (that is also the average daily range of a city bus) and they are completely emission-free – the only substance emitted while the bus is driving is steam,” declares Dariusz Michalak, vice-CEO of Solaris Bus & Coach, in charge of the research and development division.

Both fuel-cell-fitted Solaris Urbino 18,75 buses delivered to Hamburg in 2014 still cover bus route 109 on a regular basis. What is more, the Polish bus producer supplied the first trolleybus with fuel cells to Riga last year. This year, 10 such vehicles will drive across the capital of Latvia in total.

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About our company

Solaris Bus & Coach sp. z o.o. is one of the leading European bus and trolleybus manufacturers. Benefiting from nearly 25 years of experience and having manufactured over 20,000 vehicles, Solaris affects the quality of city transport in hundreds of cities across Europe every day. Thinking of the future, the firm is setting new standards by dynamically developing its products, in particular in the electromobility sector. Solaris electric buses, trolleybuses and hydrogen buses are cutting-edge solutions for zero emission public transport. Solaris products have been repeatedly awarded for quality and innovation. The Solaris Urbino 12 electric won the prestigious European "Bus of the Year 2017" competition. In September 2018 Solaris Bus & Coach sp. z o.o. joined CAF Group.