



PRESS RELEASE

10 million electric kilometres on the odometer of Solaris buses

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By the end of 2018 the distance covered by electric buses of Solaris exceeded 10 million kilometres. Every kilometre experienced has made it possible, barely a decade after its première, for the Urbino electric, which is now in serial production, to offer the same operational possibilities as diesel buses, without releasing noxious exhaust emissions, and thus remain the most environmentally friendly bus.

Electric buses made by Solaris have already covered a distance of 10 million kilometres in total, since the unveiling of the battery Urbino in 2011. However, the manufacturer's electromobility adventure actually began already when it started working on its first Solaris Trollino trolleybus. The evolution of electric drivelines from trolleybus, through hybrid to solely battery-powered drive, earned the vehicle the acknowledgment of experts from the automotive industry and the Bus of the Year 2017 award.

Until now, Solaris has delivered or received commissions for nearly 400 electric vehicles; in 2017, it ranked first in Europe in this respect, claiming a market share of 18%. A few hundred electric Urbinos are currently riding on roads in 16 states and 38 European cities. The vehicles are doing extremely well, both in the cold of Scandinavia as well as in sunlit Barcelona. A true record-breaker in terms of mileage is the 12-metre electric bus in use in Jaworzno, with nearly 250,000 kilometres on its odometer. The pantograph-charged vehicles of the operator sometimes cover up to 12,000 kilometres in one month.

Ever since signing its first contract in 2012, Solaris has been incessantly working on technologies for its electric buses. The company's product range has widened considerably, with regard to the offered vehicle length, the battery capacity and the charging modes, the driveline types as well as the heating and air-conditioning systems. Moreover, Solaris offers its customers comprehensive investment management services that cover not only the supply of buses and of charging systems, but also ensure the preparation of installations including construction works. Furthermore, engineers from the Office of Research and Development (BBiR) in Solaris have devised a system of remote diagnostics for electric buses, called eSConnect, which will allow to increase the operating and servicing possibilities of the Urbino electric, thanks to the substantial amount of data collected during rides in city traffic.

Even though the electric drive technology itself is already well-known, for many cities and public transport operators it is still a novel and advanced solution. In its attempt to help customers prepare for the electrification of municipal transport, Solaris offers to carry out individual feasibility studies, at the client's request. Such an analysis allows to find optimal solutions with regard to vehicle infrastructure and equipment for a given urban centre and for particular bus lines. Needs may differ immensely, depending on the outside temperature of the city, but also on the average speed, the number of stops on the bus route, the bus occupancy or the topography of the area. There is one goal though: the bus should be operational whenever the client needs it to be.

Experience gathered during the travels of each Urbino electric has allowed the firm to devise a serially produced bus that is able to replace a diesel vehicle in urban traffic. These are also the laws of the

market in which vehicles with alternative drivelines claim an increasing share, and this applies in particular to city buses. Expert forecasts indicate that, in 2030, electric drivelines will be featured in nearly half of all new buses in Europe, whereas diesel engines will be installed in merely 7% of those buses. Electric buses are much more economical in use, they are noise and emission-free, and it is these vehicles that, according to Solaris, represent the future of city transport, which is why the manufacturer keeps reinforcing that production segment.

Additional information

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About our company

Solaris Bus & Coach sp. z o.o. is one of the leading producers of city and intercity buses in Europe. It focuses in particular on the development of zero-emission vehicles, i. e. electric and hydrogen buses as well as trolleybuses. This has resulted in the widest zero-emission product range in the European market and a leading position in this segment with a market share of 15.2%. Nearly 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. Moreover, all activities undertaken by the manufacturer are in line with the brand's mission, which is reflected in the motto "We are changing 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.