



PRESS RELEASE

Solaris exceeds its range of electric buses with intercity vehicle. Solaris Urbino 15 LE electric will have its premiere this year

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This year, Solaris will introduce a 15-meter Urbino version to the electric bus portfolio. Up until now, the “electric offer” of Solaris encompassed only city buses, the 15-meter version of the Urbino will also meet requirements of inter-city transport.

This year will see the manufacture of a completely new generation of the Solaris Urbino 15 LE model, created solely with zero-emission drivelines in mind. The bus will be certified and offered with specs characteristic for class I vehicles – as a city bus, and for class II vehicles – as a bus for inter-city transport.

The design itself of the tri-axle bus of 15 meters is nothing new for the company. Solaris made its first tri-axle vehicles back in 1999 and to-date it has supplied nearly 1300 of these vehicles to customers. However, these were models based on conventional diesel and on CNG engines.

“I am convinced that our latest design will be a response to the needs of European carriers in this segment. The premiere of the bus is slated for this year,” announced Petros Spinaris, Vice-President of Solaris.

The decision to build a new bus was triggered not only by market interests, but also by the unprecedented technical progress with regard to electric buses, and in terms of energy storage in particular. Energy storage in the SU15 LE electric buses will be covered by Solaris High Energy+ batteries of the latest generation which was presented by Solaris last year. The new battery solution allows to offer a drive range on a single charging which will fulfil expectations of municipal and inter-city carriers in any travel conditions.

The first two pre-series vehicles will be fitted with 6 battery packs with a total capacity of over 470 kWh. Two will be roof-mounted, whereas four will be placed in the back of the bus. The batteries in this model can be recharged by means of a plug-in, or, at the customer’s request, also using a pantograph. The options available will be pantographs mounted on the vehicle roof or inverted ones. Everything will be consistent with customer preferences and compatible with the existing or planned charging infrastructure.

The drive unit of the tri-axle Urbino version will be the liquid-cooled, 300 kW central electric motor CeTrax. The driveline will be moved to the second (middle) axle of the vehicle. In order to reduce the use of energy to a minimum, the manufacturer will implement SiC technology in the bus propulsion area.

The first two Solaris Urbino 15 LE electric vehicles will be made chiefly with Scandinavian operators in mind. That is also why the buses will feature special solutions complying with Bus Nordic standards and the so-called Scandinavian package. This entails, among others, special solutions ensuring thermal comfort in the vehicle, lighting or a type of passenger seats dedicated to transport between cities. Interestingly enough, the bus will be also equipped with sander which is solution familiar from

the tram market mostly. The device enables movement even on the most icy or snowy of roads. In order to optimise the energy consumption, the Urbino 15 LE electric will be fitted with hybrid heating based on a heat pump, among others. What is more, the vehicle will contain solutions related to ADAS (Advanced Drivers Assistance Systems), i.e. automated systems of assistance for the driver, including the features MirrorEye or MobilEye Shield+.

“Even though we are building a new model of a low-entry electric bus, chiefly with Scandinavian markets in mind, we will certainly not limit our offer for that vehicle to those countries only. It will be available to all operators seeking a tri-axle LE bus for city and inter-city transport. It will also be a completely zero-emission alternative in this class for CNG-fuelled buses,” says Petros Spinaris, Vice-President of Solaris, about the new product.

The low-entry electric buses will be available with a two-door (2-2-0) or three-door (2-2-1) outlay. The passenger seating capacity will amount to 55 persons for class II vehicles.

Additional information

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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.