

BIZ: Achievement TECH: Electric Drive

Castrosua's Nelec named Spain's Ecological Bus of the Year 2022

Spain – The Nelec electric bus by **Carrocera Castrovia S.A.** of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, has been awarded the title of Ecological Bus of the Year 2022 at Spain's National Transport Awards, beating nine other nominees to the award. This adds to the Red Dot Design Award that the Nelec received in 2021.

The Nelec is built on an electric chassis from **Scania AB** and is offered in 11m to 13m options. Furthermore, the Nelec's low floor or low entry offerings can be equipped with two or three doors.

Castrosua stated that it had chosen Scania's electric chassis due to an historic partnership between the two firms, however, Castrovia is able to produce bodies for all platforms and chassis-builders.



Castrosua's Nelec eBus built on Scania's e-chassis

In addition to Nelec, Castrovia's range of vehicles includes the New City city bus, the Magnus .H and Magnus .E intercity buses, and the Stellae coach. Since 2015, it has sold 1050 units of the New City, with the vast majority built on chassis from Scania and **MAN**.

Castrosua operates two factories, one at its headquarters in Santiago de Compostela, and another in Villagarcía de Arosa. The Santiago plant has a production capacity of two buses per day, with an additional one bus per day produced at the Villagarcía facility, which is currently optimised to produce its long-distance vehicles.

Over the past five years, Castrovia has sold 2,200 units, made up of 55% urban vehicles, 40% intercity, and 5% coaches. The firm states that its average market share of the Spanish market over the past five years stands at 16.5%, with 87% of its sales for the domestic market. The remaining 13% of its vehicles have been destined for export, most recently to the United Arab Emirates, Lithuania, and South Korea.

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Turnover (million Euros)	54.5	72.6	81.1	73.4

BIZ: Order TECH: Electric Drive

MCI receives first Canadian order for battery-electric coach

Canada / USA – **Motor Coach Industries** ("MCI"), a subsidiary of the **NFI Group** based in Des Plaines, Illinois, USA, has received its first Canadian order for its 'J4500 CHARGE' line of battery-electric coaches, which it launched in May 2021, from **Universal Coach Line Ltd** of Richmond, British Columbia.

The coach operator has purchased a single unit of the J4500 CHARGE line of 45-foot coaches, with the support of provincial grants and sales tax rebates provided by the 'CleanBC Go Electric' programme. The zero-emission version of the J series of long-distance tour and charter luxury coaches carries up to 56 passengers and provides a range of up to 370 km, with a full recharge possible in under four hours. It is powered by a **Siemens** electric motor rated at 260 kW and a 544-kWh battery system by **XALT Energy MI LLC** of Midland, Michigan, USA.

Universal Coach Line will use the coach for

transporting employees as well as in local tour and charter trips. The operator remarked positively on the "cleaner and quieter" passenger experience following a demonstration last year. "Passengers could easily be heard in conversation, which will make it easier to work and relax onboard," commented Lindsay Moir, Vice President of Universal Coach Line.



MCI J4500 CHARGE serving Universal Coach Line

PEOPLE: Appointment

Radoslaw Banach appointed VP Production at Škoda Transportation

Czech Republic - **Škoda Transportation a.s.**, a manufacturer of locomotives and electric buses based in Plzen, Czech Republic, has appointed Radoslaw Banach as Vice President for Production, effective immediately.

Banach previously managed rolling stock manufacturer Alstom's production branch in Katowice, Poland for nine years, and has worked in managerial roles for several manufacturers involved in on-road and rail transportation. In his new role at Škoda Transportation, he will be

responsible for production technology, "lean management", and logistics.

Petr Brzezina, President of Škoda Transportation, said: "We have invested more than CZK 2 billion [approx. 82 million] in expanding production and hired over 1,000 new employees in the last two years. I am confident that Radek Banach's experience will help us manage the massive growth in production volumes and further strengthen our position as a reliable and quality supplier of rail and wheeled vehicles for green mobility."

BIZ: Product TECH: Gas Engines

Iveco adds extended range CNG tanks to S-WAY

Italy – **IVECO Group NV**, based in Turin, Italy, has added larger CNG tanks to its S-WAY 4x2 tractor. The new tanks now offer a fuel capacity of 1,052 litres of compressed natural gas, an increase of 132 litres over the previous maximum.



Iveco S-WAY CNG

The increased capacity allows for an additional 160kg of compressed natural gas to be filled into the tanks, which Iveco states will support a 15% increase in vehicle range.

Commenting on the product update, Jorge Asensio López, IVECO UK's Medium/Heavy Product Manager & Alternative Fuels Lead, said: "Natural gas, as the gateway to zero emission transport, is becoming harder to ignore. With the larger CNG tanks and a refuelling network that is undergoing nationwide growth at a considerable rate, IVECO S-WAY CNG offers operators an environmental solution that must not be ignored."

BIZ: Strategy PEOPLE: Appointment

Daimler Buses combines production and product engineering divisions

Germany – Stuttgart-based Daimler Truck AG has announced that its production and product engineering divisions of Daimler Buses are to be combined into one department, effective April 1, 2022.

Previous Head of Production, Michael Klein, will assume overall responsibility for Production and Product Engineering at Daimler Buses. Gustav Tuschen, who has been in charge of Product Engineering at Daimler Buses since 2013, is to retire at the end of March after more than 30 years with the Daimler Group.

Till Oberwörder, Head of Daimler Buses said: "In order to do justice to the transformation in the best possible way, we have decided to combine our Production and Product Engineering management areas under the leadership of the previous Head of Production, Michael Klein, effective April 1, 2022. In this way, we want to further increase speed and efficiency, as well as our competitiveness. We would like to thank Gustav Tuschen for his cooperation and outstanding commitment, through which he demonstrated a great deal of perseverance in the implementation of new technologies with a high level of personal commitment. Among other things, he successfully put the all-electric Mercedes-Benz eCitaro city bus on the road. We wish him all the best in his next chapter of life."