Hydrogen fuel cell Enviro400
When style meets comfort.

NEOPLAN IS PROUD TO INTRODUCE THE ALL-NEW TOURLINER.

The NEOPLAN hallmarks of comfort, style and sharp design are further enhanced throughout the new state-of-the-art Tourliner.

Passenger comfort and convenience is upgraded while the driver will enjoy technology and connectivity improvements as well as the uncompromising MAN Euro 6c engine and advanced safety systems.

Every Tourliner is supported by the 3-year MAN Warranty+ (incl. annual engine service, mileage restrictions apply), 4th-year driveline, 1-year MAN TeleMatics® and Fit To Go as standard.

To find out more, contact us on 01793 448034 or email: coach.sales@man.co.uk
THE SIGNS are going up; there appears to be no turning back. Those coach operators hoping for a late reverse gear from the mayor of London on the introduction of the ULEZ scheme in April may be dismayed to see that TfL has started erected signs to warn drivers that it is on its way.

I have heard many coach operators argue that their representatives, and specifically CPT, should have argued more vigorously on their behalf, but we need to recognise that the coach industry voice is just one among many, and the evidence now available about the impact of urban air pollution on health is very convincing, especially to politicians who need to maintain public support.

Who wouldn’t want clean air, and who can argue against it? As a new grandparent of a child living in London, I too have a real stake in wanting the cleanest possible environment for my granddaughter to grow up in.

The real challenge for coach operators, of course, is how to respond to the ULEZ schemes, and all the others which will inevitably emerge across the UK. Retrofitting older Euro vehicles is expensive even where it does exist as an option. To date, only one system has been approved, for the Volvo B9. And the retrofit situation just got even worse with the news that the Energy Savings Trust has removed CVRAS accreditation, at least for the present, from one company which had been supplying bus retrofit systems and claiming to offer a coach solution.

Caveat emptor - buyer beware - as always is crucial.

And even if you can fund a fleet upgrade to Euro 6, how long does that work for? Operators are now beginning to worry about the whole model that has underpinned most small and medium sized fleets given that the second-hand value of their assets can be wiped out with the stroke of a legislative pen. It may be time to look again about the efficacy of owning those assets, with all the uncertainties about future value, against the option of leasing as a potential protection in the wake of ever-tightening environmental requirements.

Is the ownership model broken?
06-14 news Hydrogen fuel cell Enviro400 now available from ADL.

06-14 news BYD delivers first French-built buses.

06-14 news Tower Transit orders 28 StreetDeck HEVs.

15-17 international Volvo electric buses start regular service in Malmo.

15-17 international Electric buses for Taipei from Danfoss.

18-19 people Matthew Gregory appointed as FirstGroup chief executive.

20 diary Driver eye test initiative at Sharpes of Nottingham.

22 product seating Update from bus and coach seating suppliers.

24-33 euro bus expo review New generation electrics and sustainability to the fore at last month’s NEC show.

34-38 ticketing M-ticketing has now become the go-to solution for customers of a wide range of bus operators across the UK.

39-41 who buys what First Irizar integral for Longmynd Travel.

45-46 tourism Beamish awarded Coach Friendly Status by CPT.
How to reach your targets and comfort zone you deserve?

Choose only the very best and provide your customers with the comfort and luxury they expect!

Brusa Seating, a front runner in design and manufacturing of passenger seat solutions for tomorrow.

ADDRESS:
Organize Sanayi Bölgesi Mavi Cadde 2. Sokak No:1 Nilüfer/Bursa TURKEY
PHONE : +90 224 241 76 80  FAX: +90 224 241 76 91
ALEXANDER Dennis is adding a new hydrogen fuel cell-powered Enviro400 to its range, developed in partnership with hydrogen and fuel cell system integrator Arcola Energy. The hydrogen-powered Enviro400 has an electric driveline with axle-mounted motors. The on-board battery is charged with a fuel cell which generates electricity from hydrogen stored in tanks on the vehicle. ADL points out that no external battery charging is required and the vehicle’s only emission is water vapour while offering the advantage of a long zero emission range.

The bus manufacturer notes however that there is still a challenge in establishing hydrogen as a fuel in terms of infrastructure and ‘sustainable’ production of hydrogen.

A prototype bus has been tested through a number of design iterations and ADL says it is now ready to take orders for the model.

“ADL continues to support bus operators across the UK by collaborating to develop new technologies that help achieve environmental and operational targets,” says ADL chief executive Colin Robertson. “Hydrogen fuel cell technology is part of the mix of solutions and we are delighted to now offer this option to the industry.”

www.alexanderdennis.com
www.arcolaenergy.com

Hydrogen fuel cell Enviro400.
Photo: Andrew Macintosh.
The intelligent choice.

Premium tyres and a range of services and solutions committed to maximising your fleet’s performance

- Tyres optimised for your application, driven by your needs.
- The ContiPressureCheck™ tyre pressure monitoring system improving efficiency and safety.
- Conti360° Fleet Services Network dedicated to help you achieve the Lowest Overall Driving Cost and keep your fleet on the road.

www.continental-tyres.co.uk/busandcoach
Pelican wins approval for public sector purchasing framework

YUTONG importer Pelican Engineering Group has been named as a supplier on the Crown Commercial Service’s RM6060 Vehicle Purchase framework which will enable public sector customers to use the framework for the purchase of Yutong buses and coaches. The framework agreement with CCS is for four years.

Yutong’s Ian Downie says: “The framework agreement was awarded after passing stringent criteria from CCS, and we are absolutely delighted to be named as a supplier.”

BYD delivers first French-built buses

BYD France has delivered the first electric buses assembled at its Beauvais factory with two 12m vehicles for Transdev which will start operations in Beauvais this month running from Beauvais-Tillé airport to the city hall and train station, as well as an express shuttle bus route to hotels. The ebuses should drive up to 160km a day and will be charged overnight at the Corolis depot in Beauvais.

The ebuses will be officially delivered to the Agglo du Beauvaisis at an event scheduled this Saturday 8 December at 11 am in front of the Beauvais Cathedral.

“We are very pleased to deliver our first ebuses to Beauvais, the region where our plant is established,” says Isbrand Ho, managing director, BYD Europe and president, BYD France. “The French electric bus and coach market is one of the largest in Europe, and that is one of the main reasons why we have chosen our production site to serve the French market to be in Allonne. Here we can optimally serve our French clients, we are close to our customers and we can produce tailor made ebuses with our team of local employees.

“BYD has the capacity to make zero emission French-built electric buses in line with the spirit of the 2015 Paris Climate Summit.”

BYD has to date received more than 600 orders for buses in Europe, and more than 35,000 BYD electric buses have been delivered worldwide.
Coachline: a new one-stop shop for your Coach, Minibus and Business Insurance

Save time and money and have complete peace of mind with our EXCLUSIVE insurance package:

- Coach and Minibus insurance
- Fleet insurance
- Business insurance (including Public and Employers' Liability)
- Cyber Insurance

The Coach and Minibus Insurance Experts
Call us now
See how much you could save...

Tel: 01785 245200
Email: coachline@coachline.co.uk

www.coachline.co.uk

Coachline Insurance Services is a division of Baylis & Cooke Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

We are talking...
50% Fewer Driver Infringements!

We use CPT Tacho Analysis, CPT Daily Checks and TruLicence. TruTac’s remote downloading solution delivers all vehicle and driver information direct from the tachograph. In just 3 months we have seen a 50% reduction in driver infringements and an overall increase in compliance control.

Bryan Maddern, Transport Manager, Daish’s Holidays.

Over 30 years experience of advising the PSV industry...

... So if you need any help or advice, call 01279 818280

NEW Cyber Insurance

BRAKE TESTING

- DVSA DATABASE GIVING PASS OR FAIL PRINTOUTS
- WI-FI TABLET INCLUDED
- 13T AXLE CAPACITY
- THREE YEARS WARRANTY

£19,995
Available from £99 per week + VAT

KISMET GARAGE EQUIPMENT UK LTD
0151 343 1821

No. 4 The Exchange
9 Station Road
Stansted Mountfitchet
Essex CM24 8BE
Tel: 01279 818280
www.pellystransport.co.uk

For peace of mind and complete compliance control of your fleet, call us today! 024 7669 0000
info@trutac.co.uk
www.trutac.co.uk

www.pellystransport.co.uk
**Tower Transit orders 28 StreetDeck HEVs**

WRIGHTBUS has won an order for 28 StreetDeck HEV vehicles from London operator Tower Transit, which will be deployed in summer 2019. These vehicles are the first StreetDeck HEVs purchased by Tower Transit, which already operates StreetLite single-decks.

Built to full TfL specification, the StreetDecks are 10.6m twin-door models and powered by a Daimler OM934 Euro 6 engine with Voith D854.6 gearbox including integrated retarder.

“The main reasons Tower Transit has opted for the StreetDeck HEV is based upon the anticipated fuel savings, low cost of ownership, and the environmental credentials of our HEV system,” says David Barnett, business development director, Wrightbus. “Purchasing a well-engineered low-voltage hybrid driveline was an important consideration for Tower Transit and we are pleased that they have come to us for their latest order to service some of their busy London routes.”

Satnam Cheema, group engineering director, Tower Transit, adds: “We’ve always experienced good performance from Wrightbus and look forward to see how the StreetDeck HEV performs when its enters service with our fleet next year.”

Tower Transit Group employs more than 2,000 staff and operates about 800 single- and double-deck buses in London and Singapore.

![10.6m Wrightbus StreetDeck HEV to TfL specification](image)

**Data Hub expansion gives access to key transport data**

THE Urban Transport Group has upgraded its online data tool with additional transport-related statistics, including factors such as congestion, road safety and satisfaction. The Data Hub, first launched by UTG in July 2017, collates data from sources such as the Department for Transport, the Office of National Statistics, the Office of Rail and Road, and local authorities.

The free interactive tool - which allows users to generate bespoke data visualisations such as graphics and charts and then post them onto websites, social media or into presentations – has been refreshed and now has more than 40 data sets.

New data sets include satisfaction of different modes of transport, showing that the bus and walking have the highest proportion of satisfied travellers, while cycling has the lowest. The online tool also includes the ability to create maps (or geo charts) of items such as bus patronage and average speeds.

“The Data Hub is the ultimate one-stop-shop for those interested in the data that’s driving the city region transport trends,” says Stephen Edwards, executive director, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive and Urban Transport Group board member. “This major upgrade vastly strengthens the tool and firmly cements its position as the go-to online platform to ‘select, visualise and share’ key transport data. The tool will continue to evolve and become even more powerful - helping to inform and influence transport policy and planning across England over the coming years.”

[www.urbantransportgroup.org/insight](http://www.urbantransportgroup.org/insight)
RATP Dev has completed the installation of new automatic charging equipment for its batch of 36 BYD/ADL Enviro200 EVs which will be used on TfL route C1 and 70.

Preparing Shepherd’s Bush bus garage for the electric buses involved a collaboration between BYD and ADL’s strategic partner, SSE, to oversee the installation of the electric vehicle infrastructure. SSE installed electric power and data cables and wiring at the garage, while BYD installed its smart charging management system, which enables an automatic charging system at the depot to simultaneously charge all the electric buses overnight with minimal supervision. BYD says its system removes the risks associated with manually charging buses, and also cuts down on the staff required over a night shift, in turn reducing operating costs.

The renewed Shepherd’s Bush facility was officially opened by Catherine Guillouard, Chairwoman and CEO of RATP Group, Laurence Batlle, CEO of RATP Dev and TfL commissioner Mike Brown.

“This highly complex project at Shepherd’s Bush is one of the best examples so far of how the in-depth experience of BYD in electric bus operation and infrastructure installation - coupled with the input of our strategic partners such as ADL and SSE - can simplify the task of getting electric bus fleets up and running in a short time,” says Frank Thorpe, BYD UK country manager. “This is far from a simple task and there are many pitfalls as can be seen from another project in the UK where new electric buses are having to be recharged by a diesel generator”.

Arthur Whiteside, ADL managing director UK Sales, adds: “With over 215 BYD ADL EnviroEV buses delivered or on order and well in excess of 1.5 million electric miles clocked up in the UK, it is clear that operators appreciate not only the vehicles we supply, but also the full infrastructure support from route analysis to site surveys which can be delivered.”
SCANIA and Alexander Dennis have completed the delivery of 53 double-deck biogas-fuelled double-decks to Nottingham City Transport. Representing the largest fleet of its type, the 11.5m-long, 84-passenger-capacity vehicles are now operating daily services on a number of routes in and around the city.

Each bus has a minimum range of 250 miles on a single fill, according to Scania, which claims the biogas fleet contributes to improved air quality through lower emissions of nitrous oxides and particulate matter, and reductions of carbon dioxide emissions by up to 84 per cent.

“Nottingham is one of the pioneers of biogas double-deckers in the UK and is now deservedly reaping the benefits of its foresight and commitment,” says Martin West, new bus and coach sales director, Scania (Great Britain). “The successful introduction of the fleet, backed by an installation of an in-house gas refuelling station, is redefining sustainability and demonstrating a new and exciting model of bus operation.”

Richard Matthews, UK sales director, ADL, adds, “We are pleased to have partnered with NCT and Scania on this momentous project. Not only does this fleet deliver the green credentials of biogas, it also provides a premium, passenger-centric specification. Transparency, trust and mutual respect between all three partners involved has been key in bringing this to life and we are looking forward to continuing to build on this strong foundation in 2019 and beyond.”

Based on Scania’s 280hp N 280 UD4x2 chassis, the Nottingham biogas fleet is equipped with ADL’s Enviro400CBG City body.

www.scania.co.uk
From Beijing to Buenos Aires and **New York to London**, fleets, cities and passengers rely on Allison Automatics to safely and reliably keep their buses on the road. Our proven reliability has made us the global leader in bus transmission technology. Allison has the widest selection of automatic transmission models for buses and is offered by more bus manufacturers around the world than anyone else. Allison fully automatic transmissions deliver smooth operation, lower cost of ownership and thanks to FuelSense® technology, improved fuel economy. The world depends on Allison. Shouldn’t you?

[allisontransmission.com](http://allisontransmission.com)
## INDUSTRY DATA

**Market prices**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operator</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Low</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FirstGroup</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go-Ahead</td>
<td>1612</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>1310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Exp.</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotala</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stagecoach</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Closing prices on 04/12/18 plus 12 months high and low.

---

**UK diesel price update pence per litre**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern Ireland</td>
<td>134.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>136.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>135.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>135.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West</td>
<td>135.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yorks &amp; Humbs</td>
<td>135.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Midlands</td>
<td>135.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Midlands</td>
<td>136.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Anglia</td>
<td>136.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East</td>
<td>136.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West</td>
<td>135.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average weekly fuel prices for the UK by region, November 2018. Source: AA

---

**European diesel price update pence per litre equivalent**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>117.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>133.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Rep</td>
<td>115.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>128.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>121.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>135.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>130.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>127.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>128.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>122.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>116.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>124.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>137.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>103.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>109.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>151.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>109.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>123.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>111.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>140.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>144.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

European diesel pump price sample November 2018 Source: AA

---

**TfL rolls out signage to warn drivers about forthcoming ULEZ**

TfL is beginning to install roadside signage to promote its forthcoming 24-hour Ultra Low Emission Zone in central London. TfL says that ULEZ, which comes into force next April, will significantly reduce emissions to help tackle the 9,000 deaths linked to air quality every year, and has now installed 300 signs to alert drivers.

The signs, which are being installed alongside existing Congestion Charge signs, warn drivers at all entry points to the zone, and on a number of key approach routes, to ensure their vehicle meets the new emission standards that come into effect next year.

“We are committed to tackling the public health crisis that is London's toxic air,” says Nick Fairholme, director of project and programme delivery, TfL. “It affects all Londoners, causing 9,000 premature deaths every year and reducing the quality of life for thousands more.

“We're working hard to prepare Londoners for the ULEZ and to encourage them to opt for vehicles that emit fewer pollutants or walk, cycle or use public transport. We know that many people are aware, with more than 1.3 million checks of vehicles' compliance on our website. These new signs will be a physical reminder that the ULEZ is coming.”

Dr Penny Woods, chief executive, British Lung Foundation, adds: “We welcome the ULEZ as it goes further than ever before to clean up the capital’s filthy air.

“Air pollution is a danger to everyone’s health and people living with a lung condition, the elderly and children are most at risk. It’s vital that we all work together to address this public health crisis.”

www.tfl.gov.uk
Taiwan

First full-electric bus route launched in Taipei

A new fleet of 12 electric buses is being launched in Taipei with plans to add a further 400 electric buses to the city’s network in the next four years. Powered by electric drivetrains from Danfoss Editron, the electrification arm of Danfoss group, the buses can operate a range of around 260km.

The buses will be deployed on a 31.5km-long route across Taipei, linking four MRT stations, 11 schools and five major business districts. The lightweight buses feature Danfoss Permanent Magnet Machines.

Editron’s control and monitoring software includes self-diagnosis and provides constant monitoring and reporting to the control centre on engine temperature, charge state and remaining mileage to reduce the risk of sudden bus failure and improve the efficiency of the overall operation.

Each bus has a roof-mounted single crystal solar panel that can generate 130kW of electricity a day. Each bus can be charged in just five hours.

The buses were commissioned by RAC Electric Vehicles, and the company has already placed an order to Danfoss EDITRON for another 36 drivetrains to be delivered early next year. Taipei City Public Transportation Office aims to have 400 electric buses on its roads in the next four years and its long-term goal is to have an all-electric bus network in the city.

“We have been very active in Taiwan since we launched Asia’s first hybrid electric ferry in 2017 and we’ve seen how quickly electrification is happening in this region,” says Kimmo Rauma, Danfoss Editron vice-president. “As a company committed to fighting pollution, we are excited that Taipei has made the choice to electrify its bus fleet and, of course, that they chose Danfoss Editron technology to achieve that vision.

www.danfoss.com

Ecuador

BYD order for 20 electric buses in Ecuador

ECUADOR private bus operator Saucinc and BYD have agreed a deal for 20 electric buses for Guayaquil which will be the first electric fleet in the country and the second for Latin-America.

Public bank CFN will finance the purchase of the buses and charging system at a total cost of US$7.7million.

The 12m buses will have a passenger capacity of 80 people and include air-conditioning, wi-fi and increased comfort for drivers.

The BYD eBus has been tested in live operations in Guayaquil City between November 2017 and March 2018, with an average range of 250km per day. In total, 72,000 people used the electric bus and it is estimated that this 20-strong fleet will reduce emissions by 12.8tonnes of CO2 over a year’s operation.

“This is a great example of how public and private sectors can work together for the welfare of citizens” says Jorge Burbano, BYD country manager. “The Municipal Transit Agency of Guayaquil supported this private project considering the acceptance it had among users, after they created a poll to measure their appreciation of the service. Eighty five per cent of the users approved the new technology and a new ticket rate for zero emissions transport, air conditioning and new buses.”

In addition to the first electric bus fleet, Saucinc will also boast the country’s first fast-charge station which may also provide energy to an electric taxi project.

www.byd.com
**Sweden**

**Volvo electric buses start regular operation in Malmö**

A fleet of 13 full-electric Volvo buses will start operating on route 7 in Malmö from mid-December. The first route to be electrified by Skånetrafiken, provider of public transport in the Skåne region, runs between Svågertorp and Ön via Malmö Centre, a distance of just under 15 km.

“It’s really gratifying that one of Malmö’s main lines has now been fully electrified with our quiet and emission-free electric buses,” says Martin Spjern, key account director, Volvo Buses Sweden. “Electrically-powered bus traffic helps considerably improve the everyday environment of everyone who lives, travels and spends time in our cities, and this is a development to which we naturally want to contribute.”

The electric buses will be the first for Skånetrafiken and come with a new interior design, including a couch seat at the back, USB sockets at each seat and special night-time lighting to enhance comfort and safety.

Elsewhere in Sweden, Volvo has also sold full-electric buses to Gothenburg, and electric hybrids to Värnamo.

www.volvobuses.com

---

**Netherlands**

**Ten electric Citea artics for EBS**

NETHERLANDS operator EBS has put 10 electric VDL Citeas SLFA-181 into service on its regional transport operation in the Waterland region. The electric buses will be deployed on R-net line 316 between Amsterdam and Edam-Volendam. The buses will each cover 135,000 electric kilometres a year and serve commuters as well as tourists.

“We are proud that, as supplier of the electric buses, we are making a major contribution to the further sustainability of public transport in the Netherlands,” says Ard Romers, managing director VDL Bus & Coach Nederland. “Through the deployment of these electric buses on line 316, we and our partners, EBS and concession grantor Amsterdam Transport Region, are demonstrating even more possibilities for electrification of bus transport.”

The VDL Citeas SLFA-181 have three doors in a BRT-style design with capacity for 50 seated and 80 standing passengers.

The buses’ batteries have a capacity of 169kWh and are charged at the Edam bus station during the day using rapid chargers with a maximum capacity of 450kW. On a full charge, the buses should be able to make the round trip from Edam via Volendam to Amsterdam Central Station twice, according to VDL. And after a charging session of less than 15 minutes the bus will be fully recharged. At night the buses are charged with a maximum power of 30 kW at the Purmerend depot.

www.vdlbuscoach.com
BYD wins its first ebus orders for Denmark

BYD has had its first win in Denmark with an order for 27 electric buses for Copenhagen operator Anchersen on its Movia routes. The 12m buses will be charged overnight at the Anchersen bus terminal in Avedore Holme and are due to start operation at the end of this year running from the north to the south of Copenhagen, between Emdrup Torv and Lergravsparken.

“We are now at the forefront of the transformation of the public transportation environment to zero emission electric power,” says Søren Englund, COO at Anchersen. “Our goal is to have the same reliability with the new electric buses as with our current diesel buses. We have entered into an agreement with BYD because thorough investigation has shown us that BYD can meet the demands we and Movia have for the bus of the future.”

Isbrand Ho, managing director, BYD Europe, adds: “We are pleased to enter the Danish market and participate in the first phase of the transition towards better green public transport. With the deployment of our electric buses, the first step has been taken in replacing the diesel buses in Copenhagen.”

www.byd.com

Optare wins export recognition for New Zealand and Dubai contracts

OPTARE has been recognised for export success at the York Press Business Awards. This award follows the delivery of 114 Metrocity buses to Tranzit Group in New Zealand in a deal worth £21million and an order for 94 Solo buses to Dubai to the Roads and Transport Authority in a deal valued at circa £18million.

“I am delighted that Optare has been recognised for its export success,” says Richard Butler, Optare chief executive. “Having a strong export component to the business in 2018 has helped to mitigate UK market challenges and provide opportunities to grow the business. We continue to build on our export success in Australasia and the Middle East and explore other regions where our lightweight buses provide a unique and commercially attractive offering to government agencies and established operators.”

www.optare.com

Expansion for FlixBus USA operation

FLIXBUS is expanding its network in the USA to Texas and the eastern states including New York. The company has set up an office in New York City which will serve as the hub for FlixBus USA’s eastern operations, which should start in 2019.

“In only five months, the FlixBus brand has made its mark in the western US and has proven to be a welcome travel alternative for Americans,” says André Schwämmlein, co-founder and CEO, FlixMobility. “Now, we are ready to expand our offer to those wishing to explore the south and eastern regions of the country with sustainable transport. We plan to have well over 100 green FlixBuses on US highways by the middle of 2019.”

FlixBus USA launched on 31 May with 27 destinations including southwestern cities such as Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Phoenix. In July, it doubled its offer to include the central California corridor and the San Francisco Bay Area. Currently, 12 partners operate to 60 FlixBus USA destinations. FlixBus currently has 300 bus partners operating across 29 countries and claims to have created more than 7,000 jobs for bus drivers.

“Our bus model allows our partners to focus on the daily operation of the buses, something many of them have decades of experience in, while FlixBus manages the sales, marketing, network planning and traffic control of the business through our technological expertise,” adds Schwämmlein.

www.flixbus.com

Jane Hanson, The York Press and Alastair Munro, engineering director, Optare.

Photo: The York Press.
people

New traffic commissioner appointed for Scotland

CLAIRE Gilmore has been appointed to succeed Joan Aitken as traffic commissioner for Scotland by transport secretary Chris Grayling.

Gilmore, who will take up her post following the retirement of Joan Aitken in February 2019, is currently a senior investigating officer in the office of the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland. She is a lawyer, with substantial experience in regulatory litigation, and is also a qualified engineer.

Matthew Gregory takes up FirstGroup chief executive role

FIRSTGROUP has finally decided on a replacement for Tim O’Toole as chief executive with the announcement of the appointment of Matthew Gregory who takes on the role with immediate effect. Gregory has been interim chief operating officer, in addition to his role as chief financial officer, with the operating divisions reporting directly to him since May 2018. Following this appointment, chairman Wolfhart Hauser will revert to his non-executive chairman role.

First has also announced that Steve Gunning has been appointed to the board as an independent non-executive director, with effect from 1 January 2019.

“Since his appointment as interim COO in May, Matthew has demonstrated the combination of strong leadership skills and strategic decisiveness, which has allowed us to make progress in a number of key areas,” says Hauser. “Having conducted a thorough selection process, which considered external and internal candidates, the board unanimously concluded that Matthew is the right person to take on the role of chief executive.

“Matthew’s comprehensive knowledge of the group, his experience in previous roles and leadership capabilities are precisely the qualities needed to drive the group’s value mobilisation strategy at pace, and I look forward to the group making further progress under Matthew’s leadership.

“I am also delighted to welcome Steve Gunning to the Board of FirstGroup as a non-executive director. Steve’s extensive financial and operational expertise, and knowledge from his senior roles at British Airways, one of the most important customer brands in transport, will be of immense value to the group.”

“It’s a great honour to lead FirstGroup and our 100,000 employees who are relied upon by millions of customers across the UK and North America each day. I believe we are now in a better position to make the most of our opportunities and create a stronger business for the future. I am committed to delivering on our plans to improve our offering, increasing ease and convenience for customers, and creating sustainable value for shareholders.”

Gregory joined First as CFO in December 2015 from Essentra, where he was group finance director for nearly three years, having previously been director of corporate development as well as performing a number of senior finance roles. His early career was spent at Rank Group and Ernst & Young.

Nick Chevis who is currently director of finance, will become interim CFO, with immediate effect. In this capacity he will attend the Board, but will not be appointed as an executive director. The process is underway to recruit a permanent CFO.

On appointment to the position of Chief Executive, Gregory will receive a base salary of £635,000 per annum and a pension contribution of 15 per cent of salary, plus annual bonus opportunity of 150 per cent and long-term incentive awards of 200 per cent.

Metroline launches bus driver apprenticeship scheme

METROLINE claims to have launched London’s first bus driver apprenticeship that provides support, training and upskilling over a period of 12 months to 24 new apprentices.

The 24 newly selected apprentices to join Metroline’s new programme will be involved in modules designed to help develop confidence and encourage skills development, with practical hands-on and classroom-based training, whilst being paid to learn and train to become a bus driver.
For all the latest vacancies visit – www.busandcoach.com

New apprentices at Metroline.

for one of London’s leading bus operators.

The apprenticeship with be delivered within the framework of the Apprentice Levy arrangements, using a combination of practical training and off-the-job learning which is supported by its training partner Interserve.

Coinciding with the launch of its bus driver apprenticeship, Metroline also officially opened new training centres at its Cricklewood and Willesden Junction garages. The new Centres for Skills and Development are equipped with modern interactive training aids and will be used for training and skills development across the business ranging from Management Training to improving basic literacy and numeracy skills.

“Metroline have run an award-winning, industry leading engineering apprenticeship for a number of years now and as a result, we understand the positive benefits that apprenticeships can bring to our industry and the communities that we operate in,” says Metroline CEO Sean O’Shea. “Being able to extend this now to include drivers is a very positive step forward and combined with launching our new Metroline Centres for Skills and Development, this highlights our continued commitment to investing in our people.”

Claire Mann, director of bus operations, TfL, adds: “We’re delighted that Metroline are introducing this apprenticeship scheme that will give people vital life skills and training. Bus drivers are the lifeblood of this city and anything that encourages more Londoners to consider a rewarding and vital career as a driver on our historic and iconic buses is good for the capital.”

www.metroline.co.uk

New engineering apprenticeships for EYMS

FOLLOWING almost 200 applications for four positions, East Yorkshire Motor Services (EYMS), has appointed new apprentices to its engineering team. Over the next four years, the four apprentices will undertake training to enable them to work on EYMS’ fleet of around 300 buses and coaches.

Ross Maiden, Jack Jackson, Alex Grainger and Jordanne-Rose Rodgers secured their places on the bus and coach engineering technician apprenticeship.

Jack Jackson, 19, from Hull, says: “EYMS is a well-known local company with a good reputation, and it was a great opportunity to join such a prestigious company”.

EYMS chief engineer Robert Gibson adds: “Apprentices bring so much value to EYMS. It’s essential for us to invest in the engineers of the future, to make sure that we can maintain the skills needed to keep our buses on the road. We’re looking forward to helping our new apprentices start their careers as technicians and seeing them become part of our highly-skilled engineering team.”

www.eyms.co.uk
Eye test initiative for Sharpes of Nottingham

TO mark Road Safety week which took place last month, East Midlands coach operator Sharpes of Nottingham encouraged all its drivers to have an eye test. During the process, one driver’s high blood pressure was identified which will allow the condition to be monitored and treated, something that is vital as high blood pressure is a key risk factor for strokes.

A Vision Express’ Vision Van visited the company as part of its ‘Eye Tests Save Lives’ campaign, which is committed to reducing around 3,000 road casualties each year that are attributed to poor driver sight.

Driver Simon Hassell from Nottingham, who received the high blood pressure warning, says: “The referral to my doctor for high blood pressure came as a shock – I didn’t know an eye test could detect something like that. You only go to your doctor when you’re feeling unwell and I felt fine, so who knows when the high blood pressure would have been detected without the eye test.”

Sharpes’ operations director, James Sharpe, adds: “We supported this because it’s an important initiative and we acknowledge that the health and safety of professional drivers is a crucial part of reducing accidents on UK roads. As Group 2 licence-holders, bus drivers need to meet higher vision standards than other drivers, however there is no legal obligation for eye tests every two years, as recommended by the NHS. All of our drivers who visited the Vision Van had undergone an eye test since passing their test but that’s not necessarily the norm within the professional driving community.

“We know from Vision Express that eye test uptake is an issue within the UK’s general driving population, so we’re happy to help them spread the message to all about the importance of regular eye tests.”

Jay Ghadiali, director of professional services at Vision Express, says: “As Simon’s experience highlights, even if you believe your vision is fine, it is still crucial to get a regular eye test, and the NHS recommends one at least every two years. The value of sight checks is as a preventative step to safeguard vision for life.”

Over half of all strokes can be caused by high blood pressure, and it is estimated that more than five million people across the UK don’t realise they have the condition.

Johnsons client event raises more than £1,100 for charity

ALONGSIDE the launch of its summer 2019 Door to Door Holiday brochure, Johnsons Coach Travel incorporated a charity raffle during its trip with 500 clients to the National Memorial Arboretum. Transported in 10 coaches, the event gave Johnsons an opportunity to meet customers face to face and treat them to a day out at the Arboretum. The 150-acre site is a living, growing tribute to those who have served and continue to serve our country with over 300 memorials, each with a story to be shared.

The event included a charity raffle in aid of Johnsons’ Charity of the Year, The Shakespeare Hospice - and a total of £1,130 was raised.

Clients were welcomed to the Arboretum’s new conference venue with a presentation on the 2019 programme by John Johnson and Wendy Moore, and were then free to explore the Arboretum which features 30,000 trees and a large collection of thought-provoking memorials before gathering for a performance by the Alcester Male Voice Choir who sang songs from the First World War.

“This was a great event,” says John Johnson, “as it’s always great to meet our clients face to face and promote our new holiday programme and hear their feedback and comments.

“We would like to say a big thank you to the staff at the National Memorial Arboretum, and our hotel suppliers for supporting our event. A memorable day was had by all.”

www.johnsonscoaches.co.uk
Eye catching vehicle livery is a great way for any business, small or large, to establish and promote their name. Do you want and expect the following:

- A Design Service
- A Fitting Service
- Experienced and Qualified Staff
- State of the Art Modern Digital Printers
- Use of Correct Materials (including brush wash compatible)

The interior space on your vehicles could be used for many marketing ideas, you may like to make use of the available coving panel area by advertising special rates for day or monthly saver tickets, or remind your passengers to please observe the no smoking law, you may just wish to brighten up a stairway panel with a full colour graphic image.

Take a deep breath: This bus is free and green

We are trialling this emission-free, Volvo electric bus in Manchester city centre, because we know improved air-quality involves more electric vehicles. Driving us towards a #ZeroEmissionGM
Quality seating options with Ambla

BUS and coach seating presents a tough challenge for manufacturers given the need for a robust surface performance, and Ambla transport upholstery is designed to provide high quality of grain, colour and styling and a hygienic alternative to traditional bus upholstery, whilst giving class-leading seat wear and stain resistance.

Suitable for both indoor and outdoor use, with bespoke or complimentary ranges, Ambla offers a quality alternative to existing options, from a producer with a proven track record in supplying the mass transportation sector.

With many years’ experience of supplying interior trim to the automotive sector, Ambla can be used to create passenger experiences, with a smart and clean look for short city routes or a luxurious, high-end experience for longer journeys.

Ambla reinforces its offering by pointing out that, according to the recent bus passenger survey by Transport Focus, among the top three features of an ideal bus journey are clean and comfortable seats which it says its fabrics are designed to deliver.

www.uniroyalglobal.co.uk  www.ambla.com

Bus and coach seating solutions from Brusa

BRUSA Seating, which designs and manufactures passenger seating solutions for the bus and coach industry, has its own in-house testing facility for compliance and validation to European and other worldwide norms.

Brusa claims to be a trend setter with constant product development and the ability to offer solutions based on customer’s specific needs and specifications. It provides an extensive range of seat products, and aims to optimise product weight, robustness and durability for heavy use conditions and easy maintenance.

Founded in 2008, the company has worked with Alexander Dennis since 2012 and also supplies other OEMs including MAN and VDL. In 2018 it started production of its new generation lightweight seats.

Brusa is fully certified to ISO standards 9001 and 16949.

www.brusa.eu
Tired of the annual insurance merry-go-round?

We can offer
- Quality insurance cover for private and public hire -
- Excellent customer service and immediate cover -
- Dedicated taxi fleet and minibus policies -
- Expert claims management assistance -
- Replacement hire minibuses -
- Easy payment terms with deposits from as little as 10% -
- Access to the majority of UK taxi insurers -
- Plated hire taxis (fault or non-fault claims) -

Call Adam, Harry, Bill, Craig or Jane:
01709 837 008

New Ebury House, South Grove, Rotherham S60 2AF
Fax: 01709 839963   Email: adam@jenkinsoninsurance.co.uk
Optare launches ‘new generation’ electrics

OPTARE launched its latest generation electric buses at Euro Bus Expo, increasing daily operational range to more than 150 miles and including full electric heating. The ‘next generation’ Metrodecker and Metrocity incorporate new componentry and batteries and retain Optare’s tradition of lightweight vehicles.

The new Metrodecker EV can carry more than 94 passengers with an unladen weight of just over 11 tonnes and GVW of 18 tonnes, while the Metrocity EV carries up to 60 passengers with an unladen weight of less than 9 tonnes and GVW of 13 tonnes.

“With the support of our parent company, Ashok Leyland, we continue to make significant investment in our future; not only with the development of new innovative products but also investing in our manufacturing and customer support facilities,” says Richard Butler, chief executive, Optare. “Here at Optare we recognise that the industry faces many challenges and it’s our role to bring creative, innovative solutions both in design and product support that allows operators and local authorities to have low cost of ownership, whilst delivering vehicles that address climate change and deliver cleaner air to our towns and cities.”

Butler pointed out that in 2009 Optare’s first single-deck electric buses delivered 60 miles on a single charge with diesel heating and an electric double-deck was a dream. “Today, I stand in front of a single-deck and a double-deck electric bus that can both deliver more than 150 miles on a single charge with fully electric zero emission heating without compromise,” he adds.

www.optare.com

Eminox achieves first CVRAS accreditation ahead of ULEZ

EMINOX used Euro Bus Expo to trumpet the fact that it is the first company to be accredited with an approved system under the Clean Vehicle Retrofit Accreditation Scheme for the Volvo B9R. The company is now working with operators, including Lucketts to fit the newly-approved system, just six months before the London Ultra Low Emission Zone comes into force.

The company will work with Hampshire based luxury coach hire business, Lucketts Travel, amongst others, to retrofit its coaches to ensure it meets Euro VI standards across its fleet.

“Eminox was the first company to gain CVRAS accreditation on buses and refuse collection vehicles (RCVs) and we’ve now achieved another first on coaches with the Volvo B9R,” says Carlos Vicente, Eminox retrofit sales director. “Eminox leads the market in emissions reduction for buses and coaches and our presence at Euro Bus Expo demonstrates our commitment to the sector – and plans for the future.

“Time is running out to equip coach and bus fleets for the London ULEZ and the growing number of Clean Air Zones. We invite operators to talk to us about their needs and how we can use our experience and expertise to help them achieve Euro VI standards ahead of the deadline.”

www.eminox.com/retrofit
The single source solution for:

- New generation Internet-based fuel management systems
- Pumps for diesel, gas-oil, petrol, adblue and oil
- High accuracy tank gauging systems
- Below & above ground PPG compliant tanks
- Nationwide field support
- Project management & complete installation services

Latest news at www.fuellingmatters.co.uk
#FUELLINGFORWARD

Tel: 01226 742441
Email: sales@cameronforecourt.co.uk

www.cameronforecourt.co.uk

Cameron Forecourt Limited
Chambers Road, Platts Common Industrial Estate, Hoyland, Barnsley, S74 9SE

Intelligent
CCTV Camera Systems
For Fleet Owners
Call to receive a quote today
Tel: 01274 688990

For further information please contact us at:
Tel: 01226 689990, 0114 2483500
Email: info@autosound.co.uk | www.autosound.co.uk
Autosound, 5 South Street, Dudley, West Midlands, DY2 9BD, UK.

The Voith DIWA.6 Stop-Start Technology

The Stop-Start technology of the DIWA.6 transmission is designed to make stops more economical and environmentally friendly: The switching off allows for a reduction of the vehicle’s fuel consumption by up to 10-12% and helps to lower emissions. Public transit buses that are equipped with the Voith Stop-Start technology are successfully proving their efficiency and reliability every day.
Exclusive UK distribution deal of SmartVision for 21st Century

21ST Century has become the exclusive UK distributor for the SmartVision Camera Monitoring System for coach and bus applications which uses high-definition digital cameras and monitors to replace traditional wing mirrors. The system is designed to improve visibility, reduce the risk of accidents and lower lifetime running costs.

The system involves a rugged enclosure which contains two HD cameras showing a Class II (standard) and Class IV (wide angle) view on driver screens mounted internally within the cab area.

By using digital cameras in place of mirrors, 21st Century says that the CMS not only removes the lateral blind spots but also automatically adjusts to reduce glare and improve visibility at night and in wet conditions. The cameras also re-focus to adapt to rain drops or dirt on the lenses and an optional camera heater keeps them clear of ice or fogging.

Because the cameras are much smaller than traditional wing mirrors, the CMS should reduce drag and potentially improves fuel efficiency as well, argues 21st Century.

“The SmartVision CMS is an important step towards TfL’s Vision Zero commitment to eliminate death and serious injury involving buses,” says Russ Singleton, 21st Century chief executive officer.

www.21stplc.com

Whatever your fleet goals

MiX Telematics supports you on your journey to success

- Improve fuel consumption
- Lower maintenance costs
- Reduce collisions

To learn more about our innovative solutions for your bus fleet, email info.eu@mixtelematics.com or visit www.mixtelematics.eu.
SAFER DRIVING. SAFER PASSENGERS.

Lytx®, the leader in video telematics, introduces new on-demand access to video, and multiple camera views. The video and insights you need to run your company more safely, efficiently, and profitably.

lytx.co.uk
Volvo adds new competitive B11R coach option with MCV body.

VOLVO Bus revealed a new coach model at the NEC show last month, the fruits of a partnership with Egyptian bodybuilder MCV. The new MCV body on the B11R chassis is as yet unnamed and has a codename of ’523’, but is designed as a competitive ’mass market’ coach.

“The demand for a competitively priced, fixed-specification coach that can undertake a wide range of work is growing and the new Volvo B11R MCV has been developed to bring ‘more coach value’ and choice for operators,” says James Hyde, Volvo retail sales director.

The overall length of the vehicle is 12.65m and it comes with double-glazed side-tinted windows, pneumatic entrance door, LED lights and electronically-operated wing-style mirrors.

The interior includes LED lighting and reclining Brusa Create passenger seats in cloth and leather, three-point seatbelts, footrests and USB charging points. Entertainment is provided by a Bosch Infotainment Gen 2017 system and two LED flat screens.

Built at MCV’s production facilities in Salheya in Egypt, the new ’523’ will have a retail price of £215,000.

www.volvobus.co.uk

The as-yet-unnamed new Volvo/MCV B11R.
TYPES OF ASSET FUNDING:
- Hire/Lease Purchase
- Finance Lease
- Operating Lease
- Refinance

DEPENDABLE PARTNERS
FLEXIBLE SOLUTIONS

info@forestassetfinance.co.uk | 01425 485 685
www.forestassetfinance.co.uk

THE GLOBAL LEADERS IN WHEEL SAFETY

The Stud and Hub Cleaning Kit® effectively removes rust, corrosion and dirt from wheel studs and hubs. This helps to ensure the secure fitment of wheels and wheel nuts minimising the risk of wheel detachment.

Contact the team for more info:
sales@checkpoint-safety.com
www.checkpoint-safety.com
+44 1524 271 200

Thank you for visiting us at the Eurobus Show!

resultclothing.com

UNIFORM AND CORPORATE OUTERWEAR
Scania focuses on sustainability at Euro Bus Expo

SCANIA focused its show exhibits under its theme of sustainability, which it principally defined in terms of biofuels on the back of its recent trial with Lucketts for the ‘drop-in’ HVO fuel, in addition to its 100th biogas double-deck bus produced with ADL.

“Two years ago, Scania declared its intention to drive the shift to sustainable transport systems,” says Martin West, new bus and coach sales director, Scania (Great Britain). “This was followed earlier this year by a major sustainable transport forum in Stockholm where the results of a study commissioned by Scania were presented. This study defines the pathways available to the commercial vehicle industry if the ambition of the 2015 Paris Agreement to limit global warming to a maximum of two degrees Celsius by 2050 is to be met. The levels of interest in alternative and renewable fuels demonstrated to us beyond doubt that the industry is now firmly focusing on operating more sustainably in the future.”

Scania’s stand also featured a hybrid bus chassis, although this was a left-hand drive model and there are no plans to bring it to the UK.

www.scania.co.uk
Cummins Smart Efficiency means working with customers to tailor our engines in their vehicles for improved fuel efficiency, reduced CO₂ emissions and the lowest total cost of operation.

Our future-proof solutions include the first conventional Stop-Start system for buses, able to save up to 8% in fuel consumption and lower NOx. Bringing Euro VI clean power solutions that are better for passengers, for pedestrians and the environment.

Follow us @cumminseurope or visit us at cummins.com.

+44 1325 554829

©2018 Cummins Ltd., Yarm Road, Darlington, DL1 4PW, UK
Van Hool strikes exclusive UK deal with Arriva Bus and Coach

FROM 1 February 2019, Arriva Bus and Coach will take on exclusive responsibility for marketing and sales for the entire range of Van Hool coaches in the UK, including all EX and TX models. Van Hool and Arriva Bus and Coach have been partners in the UK for more than 30 years and the Belgian manufacturer has now decided to deal exclusively through the Cleckheaton-based dealership and is ending its relationship with Moseley PCV, Moseley Distributors and Moseley in the South after February.

“Van Hool has chosen to enter the exclusivity agreement with Arriva Bus and Coach because we share their vision for the future,” says Erik Olijslagers, Van Hool head of sales bus and coach private market.

“Exclusivity will mean our customers receive the absolute best in every aspect of buying and operating a Van Hool coach. So not only is this an important moment for Van Hool and Arriva Bus and Coach, it is also fantastic news for operators of Van Hool coaches.”

www.vanhool.be

Rescroft partners with TÜV Rheinland on testing

RESCROFT has announced a new partnership with TÜV Rheinland to offer seat belt anchorage and equipment testing for its UK customers. Rescroft will be providing independent TÜV-approved UNECE R14 testing, a formal test report and, where required, liaison with Type Approval authorities to issue necessary approvals.

TÜV Rheinland is a leading independent inspection service, founded 145 years ago and has a worldwide presence with more than 20,000 people and an annual turnover of nearly €2billion. Rescroft was established in 1976 in Redditch by current MD Alan Restall and his father, Eric Restall.

In addition to testing its own installations, the partnership will enable Rescroft to offer its services to external clients and the link-up with TÜV also provides access to approval bodies on the continent, something that might be increasingly important in post-Brexit UK. As part of its preparations for the tie-up, Rescroft has invested significantly in new state-of-the-art equipment and expanding its engineering team.

And, according to Rescroft, the timing of the deal is ideal given that a number of new minibus models are on their way to the UK.

www.uk.tuv.com
www.rescroft.com

Ticketer shows emerging technologies

HARD on the heels of its successes with a 5,500 vehicle roll-out of contactless technology for First, Ticketer used this year’s Euro Bus Expo to demonstrate some of its forthcoming technology innovations.

A new concept tap-in tap-out reader was shown which can be used in conjunction with back-office card processing from its partner Littlepay to offer Oyster-like payment systems including daily capped fares. The system could be configured to have a reader on each door of two-door buses.

Ticketer is planning to trials the system shortly. Another new technology is a Demand Response-style ticketing system which was in demonstration mode at the show to gain feedback from operators. As it is a software based solution, it can also operate on Ticketer’s hand-held machines.

www.ticketer.co.uk
CPT highlights internal debates and Brexit preparations

CPT managed to grab plenty of attention itself at this year’s show as news broke of a major consultation among its members about the future shape and size of its central and regional secretariat. An initial plan developed by the major bus groups for a drastic slimming down of the London office and regional staff has been somewhat tempered by the involvement of smaller operators and a revised plan is likely to be considered by its council this month.

Meanwhile, despite announcing that his post at CPT may be abolished in the forthcoming reshuffles, Steven Salmon, CPT’s widely respected expert on all things European, did his best to update show delegates on the latest thinking on the implications of Brexit.

Salmon was able to offer some reassurance that operating coaches on the continent may be covered by the UK joining the Interbus agreement in the event of a no-deal Brexit. However, while the vehicle may be covered, the position on staff, including the driver is much less clear. Salmon pointed out that there are potential visa arrangements that could cover UK staff working on the continent and vice-versa, but these are largely untried and have never been implemented and will evidently depend on a high degree of mutual cooperation.

So far, according to Salmon, the government has failed to respond to CPT’s queries about how these arrangements for staff working on the continent might operate in the event of there being no deal. “If I were in your position, this is something that would worry me,” he added.

Cummins achieves hybrid milestone

CUMMINS has confirmed that it has reached a Euro 6 milestone with a total of 2,000 hybrid-adapted engine installations in buses now operating across Europe to improve air quality and reduce the carbon footprint. Cummins ‘H’ versions of its B4.5 and B6.7 are configured to integrate with the hybrid driveline and provide a seamless stop-start function enabling the vehicle to save up to 12 per cent fuel consumption.

The high-volume hybrid bus success in the UK is represented by the Enviro400H from Alexander Dennis and the New Routemaster from Wrightbus, with both double-deck buses featuring Cummins B4.5-H. And a recent UK arrival is the Belfast ‘Glider’ rapid transit articulated hybrid bus from Van Hool which uses the B6.7-H.

Beyond the UK, single-deck hybrid buses can be found operating in European cities with either the four-cylinder 4.5-litre or the six-cylinder 6.7-litre Cummins, installed by bus manufacturers including VDL, Solaris, Vectia and Irizar.

“Cummins’ engine hybridisation expertise has played a key role in helping many bus manufacturers on the road to electrification and achieve remarkable results in terms of fuel savings, emissions reduction and vehicle sociability,” says Ashley Watton, Cummins director, on-highway business Europe. “Our hybrid engine installation work continues forward into 2019 with some exciting projects underway, including a double-articulated tram bus and regional coach. The efficiency of hybrid technology and engine optimisation continues to improve and will provide operators with the energy choice they need alongside clean diesel, natural gas and full electric solutions.”
Continuing revolution in smarter ticketing solutions

M-ticketing has now become the go-to solution for customers of a wide range of bus operators across the UK.

Steve Banner reports

BOARD a bus these days and you are increasingly likely to reach for your mobile phone to show you are entitled to travel rather than hunt for some change to pay your fare. So-called m-ticketing is likely to become more and more popular as part of a major surge in favour of contactless means of payment which includes the option of using smart plastic.

Ticketer has recently completed the installation of contactless Electronic Ticket Machines (ETMS) on all 5,835 of First Bus vehicles UK-wide in a programme that started in June 2017. "We’ve already achieved over 9 million contactless transactions," says First Bus managing director, Giles Fearnley.

He wants as many passengers to go contactless as possible and move away from using cash. "If more of them switched to a digital payment method then this would help speed up boarding times and make journeys quicker," he observes.

"The introduction of Ticketer will enable us to meet our target for digital payments to exceed cash by mid-2019," says First Group chief information officer Dave Lynch.

Using payment service provider Littlepay, the First Bus initiative forms part of a £19.3million investment aimed at helping to improve the experience of customers.

It is now processing some 1.5 million contactless card payments a month, with almost one-third of payments taken by First Bus Aberdeen involving contactless plastic. M-ticket sales have accelerated too across the UK fleet.

Customers can buy tickets on First Bus’ website, with a QR code sent to their smartphones which are scanned as they board the bus.

First Bus has seen its revenues
HOW SMART IS YOUR ETM?

Ticketer ETMs are so much more than ticket machines. They provide all the data needed, including real-time visibility of vehicle locations, ticket sales and service punctuality for you to run your operations more efficiently.

0203 195 8800
www.ticketer.co.uk
support@ticketer.co.uk

A world of public transport possibilities
rise, and margins increase. Machine-reading of QR codes means that fraud has fallen sharply, resulting in the level of unrecovered funds from contactless payments falling to a mere 0.1 per cent; significantly below the industry average of 1.5 per cent, Ticketer points out.

First is by no means the only operator to be going contactless with Ticketer.

Arriva is rolling out the company’s technology to its 3,500 UK buses in a programme which should be complete by summer 2019. It follows a six month trial in Guildford which resulted in almost 30 per cent of transactions being contactless. "Advances in technology are changing expectations of how we access products and services in all areas of our lives, including transport," says Arriva UK Bus digital and commercial platforms director Neil Shah. "Arriva passengers expect us to keep up, so we are adapting to make travel faster and seamless for them."

RATP is heading in the same direction. With 150 vehicles, its Bournemouth-based Yellow Buses subsidiary has made a major investment in Ticketer contactless machines. The company has also acquired two hand-held Ticketer machines for queue-busting ticket selling at busy locations in Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch. ETMs can handle a lot more than ticketing. The First Bus machines help with schedule adherence by providing drivers with a countdown to departure times. Passengers benefit from data from the ETM because it is fed into the First Bus Travel Information app; if you know where a bus is, then you are better able to tell travellers when it will arrive at their stop. Freeway Fleet Systems fleet maintenance software can read data on vehicle walk-round checks entered by drivers into Ticketer ETMs, including reports on any defects. Reading Buses has played a key role in the necessary integration work, says Freeway, and will be the first operator to adopt this approach.

"It immediately alerts the workshop if there are any problems so that it can be ahead of the curve," says Freeway managing director Patrick Tandy. "It can then allocate the parts and labour that are required."

Daily checks are of course increasingly being carried out using an app on a smartphone. "Using an existing device in the cab though means that there isn’t an extra piece of equipment to worry about," he says.

Using an ETM to report the findings of walk-round checks makes a lot more sense than using paper checklists, says Tandy. "With laborious manual capture the details often only become available many hours later," he observes.

Ticketer is by no means the only company involved in smart ticketing solutions. ITSO is responsible for the national standard for smart ticketing in the UK and has developed a m-ticketing solution of its own. "Smartcards have been around for approximately 20 years and they are looking like a technology that’s had its day," says ITSO chief executive officer Steve Wakeland.

ITSO’s solution enables passengers to pay for their tickets using Google Pay and prove their entitlement to travel by means of the NFC (Near Field Communications) chip embedded in their phone. "It took us a year to develop it and it is suitable for buses, trams, rail and ferries," he says.

M-ticketing offers a one-stop shop, says Wakeland, and - as was indicated earlier - is capable of resisting fraud. "It offers more security than a card and with a phone you can see what tickets you’ve got on it," he observes.

"Our solution has just gone live with Transport for West Midlands on its trams and several hundred people are already using it," he adds. "The next operator to adopt it will be Nexus on its Metro rapid transit light rail system in Newcastle upon Tyne and we’re in talks with First about integrating it into their mobile offering."

It makes it easy for a ticketing system to be integrated across a number of different operators and services, he says. "Wales and Scotland have expressed interest in using it for concessionary travel."

ITSO’s m-ticketing programme operates separately from its role as a test and certification body.

One area of the UK with an integrated public transport system is Northern Ireland, thanks to Translink.

Developed by Flowbird Transport Intelligence, its Future Ticketing System is scheduled to be rolled out across all Translink bus and rail services in Northern Ireland over the next two years. It offers...
The Genuine Alternative to OE


T: 01384 893083
www.bluestripereman.co.uk
as well as cash, they include smartcards, contactless payment cards and mobile payment.

All existing Translink smartcards are compatible with the new system, which was unveiled at the same time as the launch of Belfast’s new Glider bus rapid transit network. Glider passengers will be the first to benefit from it.

Flowbird has installed 114 self-service retail units at stops along the Glider network, supplied 230 platform validators and provided 45 hand-held inspection devices.

Passengers can buy tickets, top up their smartcards, collect tickets purchased online and validate their journeys before boarding.

A support operation has been set up in Belfast by Flowbird with engineers on call to provide maintenance support and technical expertise.

It has also developed an entirely new back-office architecture to manage Translink’s ticketing infrastructure. CloudFare will act as the hub for Future Ticketing System, enabling administrators to monitor and control ticketing devices directly, view route performance statistics in real time, set automatic system alerts, manage passenger accounts and run management reports.

Flowbird was set up last year by parking and transport ticketing technology specialists Parkeon and Cale.

Elsewhere, digital technology specialist Rise DM claims that its mobile ticketing platform Bushub offers the fastest way to deploy a ticketing solution that works across the widest range of smartphones in the market. The company, which includes First and Abellio in its client list, provides fully customisable solutions for bus and coach operators, and it has also designed an ‘Internet of Things’ smart ticket machine with access to a range of features which enable a cost-effective secure ticketing and vehicle tracking system.

Meanwhile the future of notes and coins as a payment medium has to be questioned given the increased reliance on m-ticketing.

In fact it is in a remarkably healthy state, according to cash handling equipment specialist Cummins Allison.

The amount of cash in circulation is rising it points out, from some £80.43billion in 2016 to approximately £82.56billion in 2017. Just over one-third of all payments - £13.1billion - made in the UK were in cash last year it adds, and average cash withdrawals from machines rose to over £70; a record.

Furthermore, 2.2 million people choose cash as their predominant method of payment even though 92 per cent of them have a debit card.

As a consequence, Cummins Allison believes that demand for equipment such as its JetScan 150 note scanner and JetSort 1000 coin counter and sorter should remain healthy for quite some time to come.

Suzohapp, Cummins Allison’s rival, agrees that cash is likely to play a key role in the economy for the foreseeable future.

Among its latest products is the Scan Coin ICX Active-9. A coin sorter with a 10in touch-screen, it can sort up to nine different coin types at a rate of up to 2,700 a minute.

Cash is expensive to handle and accepting it can lead to fraud and theft.

That said, it makes it easier for some people to budget, it is reliable and - unlike digital methods of payment - will not suddenly be rendered useless because a bank’s electronic payment system has crashed. Nor can it be hacked.

So it looks as though notes and coins will be around in Britain for a while yet - despite what their detractors say.
Greenline Coach Holidays takes new Tourismo

STOURBRIDGE-BASED Greenline Coach Holidays has placed an order for two Mercedes-Benz Euro 6 Tourismo touring coaches for delivery in 2019. Built to Touring Plus specification, the vehicles will each have 49 Luxline seats and will be delivered in the company’s Spirit Green livery.

Established in 2011, Greenline Coaches’ holidays and day trips have expanded quickly with coach holidays and day trips in the UK from its shop located on the high street in Stourbridge.

“We are a close-knit team and each member of that team is valued as much as the next one,” says owner Andy Phillips. “We all focus on the same thing; giving the customer the very best experience and many happy memories of their day trip or holiday with us. People feel this passion for customer-service when they call us or pop into our high street shop. We are delighted to have so many repeat customers.”

Greenline currently has a fleet of 10 vehicles, including a Tourismo demonstrator acquired in 2016 and one new 12m Tourismo purchased earlier this year.

Gary Owen, Area Sales Manager is delighted that Greenline Coaches has chosen Mercedes-Benz vehicles to further complement its fleet.

www.daimler.com

Why smart people buy Compak Parts

- Genuine OEM quality parts, made for purpose
- Compak OEM parts cost less than you think!
- Unrivalled availability - One-stop-shop
- Optimum delivery times - inc VOR
- Technical expertise & support
- Continuous and rigorous development testing

For complete peace of mind:-
Tel: 01322 223638 Email: douglas.park@compakramps.com
LONGMYND Travel of Shrewsbury has taken its first Irizar integral coach into its 22-strong fleet. The two-axle 12.9m, i6 integral has 57 seats plus a toilet, and its high capacity was one of the key reasons for the choice.

Longmynd Travel was established in 1973 by the parents of current director Val Sheppard, who now runs the company with husband Mark. Their son is also involved with the company, taking it into the third generation. It operates third-party tours as well as private hire and contracted services, with a fleet offering seating capacities from 16 to 70 passengers.

Longmynd’s i6 integral is powered by a DAF MX-11 271 369hp engine with ZF AS-Tronic automated manual transmission.

“Both the AMT and fully-automatic transmissions have their strong-points, but the AMT makes it a bit more of a driver’s coach because the driver can retain control over the gear selected,” says managing director Mark Sheppard. “We have the same driver in the i6 integral most of the time, and the coach does a mixture of tours and private-hire work.”

The coach has 57 seats with seat-back tables, and the driver and guide seats are upholstered in leather. The driver’s area, aisle and the rear of the saloon are carpeted, and the coach has Bosch audio and Actia video systems installed, plus a drinks machine and central sunken toilet.

“The Irizar Integral coach really stands out in our livery,” adds Sheppard. “We do most of our maintenance in-house, and the Irizar has been very good in that respect. With only 22 coaches, we can’t afford unscheduled downtime. We’ve found the customer support from Irizar to be very good, both from a sales and service point of view.”

www.irizar.co.uk
Falcon Coaches, based in Byfleet in Surrey, has introduced five Enviro200s to its fleet of 32 vehicles. The new single-deck buses are 8.9m-long 30-seat models powered by a Cummins ISB4.5 litre engine, coupled with Allison S2100 transmissions.

Falcon Coaches specialises in school contracts, corporate coach hire and the provision of local bus services. The new vehicles have gone into service on its flagship Route 461, which runs between Addlestone and Kingston-upon-Thames, via Weighbridge, Walton-on-Thames, Molesey and Hampton Court.

“This is a prestige commercial route and, as a result, we wanted state-of-the-art, market leading vehicles, hence the introduction of the new Enviro200s, all of which have wi-fi connectivity and next-stop notification screens,” says Richard Telling, managing director, Falcon Coaches. “In addition, they set the pace in terms of low emissions and meet the new ULEZ regulations that will be introduced shortly.”

www.alexander-dennis.com

GOOLE, East Yorkshire-based Cairngorm Travel has taken a new 57-seat, 13.8m-long Volvo B11R 9700 and confirmed its intention to replace its entire fleet with Volvo coaches.

“For the exclusive holidays and tailor-made tour work we carry out, we feel that the quality interior features as well as the aesthetic appearance of the Volvo B11R 9700 meets our requirements and those of our customers perfectly,” says David Southcott, operations manager, Cairngorm Travel. “We genuinely believe this to be the most stylish coach on the road.”

Cairngorm Travel has been providing British and European holidays for more than 40 years and is a member of ABTA. The company also owns and operates the Duke of Gordon Hotel, one of the longest-held privately-owned independent hotels in the Spey Valley in the heart of the Scottish highlands.

www.volvobus.co.uk
Ardee Coach Trim
One Stop Shop for all Vehicle Conversions & Refurbishments

Ardee Coach Trim
Providing Solutions for all Aspects of the Transport Industry

Double Decker Sales
Wide Range of VOLVO 87TL/ALX400 YEAR 2000-2004 (ex Dublin Bus)

Kneeler Bus Wheel Chair accessible

Can be delivered to Dublin, Rosslare or Belfast Port

Finance can be arranged

ardeecoachtrim.com

DVSA/VOSA COMPLIANT

Finance can be arranged

ardeecoachtrim.com

CONTACT
frank@ardeecoachtrim.com or 00353 872 42 62 45
eoin@ardeecoachtrim.com or 00353 857 41 43 13
www.ardeecoachtrim.com
VEHICLE SALES

FOR SALE
2018 (67) Neoplan P20 Tourliner

A rare opportunity to acquire an almost new 2018 (67) Neoplan P20 Tourliner 13.4m with 55 seats, Euro 6.

- First registered Feb 2018 • As almost brand new • LEZ Compliant Euro 6
- MAN Auto TipMatic gear box • 55 seats + crew (54 currently fitted)
- Climate control & A/C • Seat Back Tables, Nets & Foot rests
- USB charging point at each seat • 3-point seat belts • Fitted Hoover
- Climate control & A/C • Seat Back Tables, Nets & Foot rests
- Extra driver’s wing mirror • All White

CAN BE VIEWED AT DALMALLY (PA33 1AY) OFFERED AS AN IMMACULATE CLEAN WHITE VEHICLE.

£210,000 + VAT, OFFERS WELCOME. PRICE NEGOTIABLE

For More info Contact: Highland Coaches • 01838 200444

REGISTRATIONS

£890
BCZ 61
EXZ 69
FDZ 95
HCZ 26
HLZ 59
HKZ 93
KJZ 51
PCZ 45
PUR 46

£280
BXZ 670
GZZ 616
HBZ 858
HJZ 848
HJZ 727
IZZ 272
IZZ 737
LXZ 545
ULZ 373

£99
AGZ 5210
HZZ 7071
ASZ 4001
HZZ 6117
BSZ 1333
HZZ 6118
CSZ 1411
OZG 9996
GJZ 1106
OZG 6555
GJZ 9852
SUJ 9901
KJZ 5666
TUI 8891
LRZ 6010
UGJ 2220
LRZ 8981
UGJ 2221

£55
ASZ 9805
CHZ 1454
ASZ 9908
SIZG 9896
CSZ 4963
SIZG 9896
CSZ 4964
TIJG 9826
GJZ 1095
TIJG 9827
GJZ 5808
UGJ 2206
MGZ 2051
UGJ 2206
MXZ 6838
WIZ 4202
MXZ 4839
YAZ 2303

RESPRAYS

LOW COST QUALITY RESPRAYS

Coaches from £990 • Minibuses from £700

For More info Contact: Highland Coaches • 01838 200444

Instructed by a Retained Client

Coaches, Commercial Vehicles and Garage Equipment Closing Tuesday 18th December from 12 Noon

- 2015 Sunsundegai BIIR Volvo SC7 Euro 6 53 seater Coach with Toilet
- 2015 Mercedes Benz BFA 321-AEM 36 seater Coach
- 2013 Sunsundegai Sideral Volvo B7 Euro 5 53 seater Coach with Toilet
- 2015 Sunsundegai Sideral Volvo B9R Euro 5 49 seater Coach with Toilet
- 2014 MAN Unvi Touring GT - 44 seater
- 2015 Mercedes Unvi Touring - 41 seater
- 2015 Peugeot Boxer 335 HDI 3.5 tonne Luton Van with 500Kg Tail Lift and Aircon
- 2016 Peugeot Boxer 435 Professional Euro 5 Panel Van
- 2012 London Taxi International FX4 Auto "Black Cab"

Location: Atlas Coaches Ltd, 183 High Street, Harrow, HA5 3EA

Viewing: Friday 14th December 10am - 4pm

Further Information: Paul Cooper

T: +44(0)7970 126539  E: paul.cooper@eddisonscjm.com
SPECIALIST BUS & COACH RECOVERY

NATIONAL TOWING & TRANSPORT SERVICES LTD

TEL: 01638 744528
www.manchetts.co.uk

RECOVERY

DEPARTMENTS

COACH & BUS TOWING

SPECIALIST RECOVERY VEHICLES

SPECIALIST BUS & COACH RECOVERY

AMS TOWING SERVICES LTD

TEL: 01638 744528
www.manchetts.co.uk

YOUR BEST option for Bus Door Parts and Maintenance Requirements

OVER 7,000 CATALOGUED PARTS

Your BEST option for Bus Door Parts and Maintenance Requirements

Specialist bus door parts supplier based in the UK
(over 1,000 satisfied customers)

T: 01787 473000 E: sales@transportdoorsolutions.co.uk
www.transportdoorsolutions.co.uk

BLUELINE BUILDINGS

Cost Effective Solutions

Workshops/ Garaging/ Storage
Will never rust
Buildings to BS5950

Tel: 01709 578333 24 Hours

AES INDUCTION HEATING EQUIPMENT

HEATING WITHOUT A FLAME.

01977 600 688
Dates confirmed for Blenheim Palace Flower Show 2019

Blenheim Palace Flower Show returns in 2019 with more than 300 exhibitors located around a Grand Floral Pavilion, which is situated on the South Lawn of the palace, the birthplace of Winston Churchill. Taking place from Friday 21 June to Sunday 23 June, the seventh annual event promises visitors garden talks with experts and enthusiasts, a food and drink pavilion and an outdoor plant village and live entertainment throughout the weekend.

“Blenheim Palace Flower Show has really established itself as one of the great summer occasions and there couldn’t be a finer setting for a flower show than the beautiful landscape of Blenheim Palace,” says show director Matthew Upson, managing director of Aztec Events. “Last year’s event was opened by BBC Gardener’s World presenter Carol Klein, and previous guests have included gardening legend Alan Titchmarsh, Sir Ian McKellen and Mary Berry. The show attracts tens of thousands of visitors of all ages and appeals to both experienced and novice gardeners.”

At the heart of the show will be a 20,000 square foot Grand Floral Pavilion featuring more than 30 floral displays and a large selection of flowers and plants from across the UK. Admission to the show includes entry to the park and gardens so visitors can also make a day of it exploring Blenheim Palace’s formal gardens and 2,000 acres of Capability Brown parkland.

www.blenheimflowershow.co.uk

Trade launch event for new Great West Way

The trade launch of a new touring route, the Great West Way, took place last month involving 51 industry suppliers and 42 international and domestic travel trade buyers.

The Great West Way runs for 125 miles between London and Bristol and its promoters highlight its ancient routes, quaint villages and elegant towns. A launch event at The Roman Baths and Pump Room in Bath was attended by tourism minister Michael Ellis.

The Great West Way route has ambitions to encourage an additional 1.5 million visitors over 10 years, and to win significant new business and market share along the route.

A new Great West Way Travel Trade Directory features 350 local businesses and offers a tool to identify bookable options along the route. Since launching the Great West Way Official Tour Operators programme in May, there are now 35 tour operators either already selling or developing on-brand Great West Way tour programmes, according to the organisers.

www.greatwestway.co.uk
Awards

CPT awards Coach Friendly Status to Beamish Museum

Beamish, The Living Museum of the North has been awarded Coach Friendly Status by the Confederation of Passenger Transport. CPT says the award recognises the museum’s commitment to providing excellent service for coaches and groups, and understanding the requirements of the coach, its passengers and driver.

“We are delighted to receive this status, and to be only one of four places to hold this accolade in the region,” says Rhiannon Hiles, deputy director, Beamish. “We have been working hard to ensure our coach and group bookings receive a warm welcome at the museum and we are very proud to have this acknowledged.”

The CPT scheme highlights the work that cities, towns, local authorities and attractions undertake to improve coach access and driver facilities, whilst providing first-class facilities, access and information, and encouraging coach tourism.

Stephen King, CPT northern region chair, adds: “Beamish is an outstanding attraction and is a popular destination for coach passengers. With its ample coach parking near the Entrance, fast track for passengers and warm welcome, coach parties are well catered for and drivers are looked after with free admission and hospitality.”

Beamish offers discounted day rates for groups of 15 or more paying visitors, free admission for coach drivers and group visit organisers, free coach parking and driver hospitality, and free visitor map.

Special packages are available for groups, including exclusive Christmas lunch offers.

www.beamish.org.uk/plan-your-visit/group-visits
Mercedes-Benz New Tourismo
Wide selection of stock available for immediate delivery

Fresh new interior upholsteries available.
Contact your area sales manager for details.

Marcus Watts 07798 820070 Director Mercedes-Benz Sales
Jonathan Prime 07730 620279 General Manager Coach Sales
Phill Cowdery 07831 135477 North West & North Wales
Lee Hake 07887 830727 London & South East
David Hobson 07798 814850 North & Scotland
James Kay 07725 960373 East, East Anglia & South Yorkshire
Gary Owen 07753 856052 South West, Wales & West Mids
Neil Gladstone 07768 594484 NI & ROI

Mercedes-Benz
The standard for buses.
A wide range of health, welfare and financial benefits available to you, your partner and dependent children if you work in the public transport industry.

Join TBF today!

Just £1 a week covers you, your partner and dependent children

0300 333 2000
www.tbf.org.uk

Transport Benevolent Fund CIO, known as TBF, is a registered charity in England and Wales, 1160901, and Scotland, SC047016.