

## **HAND OVER OF THE FIRST OF 4 HYBRID BUSES FOR CONNEXXION (NETHERLANDS)**

**Thursday 11 June, 10:30 Stand 2A300 Hall B**

Under the authority of the province of South-Holland (Netherlands), Connexxion ordered 4 standard hybrid buses (A300 type). The vehicles will be delivered between July and September of 2009. The concept of these vehicles is comparable to that of the buses for De Lijn who ordered 35 hybrid buses for 3 different types. As from March 10, De Lijn has put into service its first AG300 Hyb articulated hybrid diesel bus in Ghent. On March 20, the A300 Hyb standard hybrid bus was introduced in Louvain and soon after that, the A308 hyb midibus was also launched. After an evaluation of these three prototypes, VAN HOOL will manufacture the other buses from July onward. De Lijn invests 15 million euro in these 35 hybrid buses: 5 city buses, 5 standard buses and 25 articulated vehicles.

Van Hool has chosen for series hybrid buses. These diesel-electric hybrid buses are driven by electric motors that get their power from two sources: a diesel generator on the one hand, and an energy storage system on the other. This works just like a rechargeable battery: it stores the energy that is generated when braking and releases it when the bus drives off or requires a supplementary energy input.

This explains why a hybrid bus is remarkably less noisy, e.g. when pulling away from a stop. Besides that, fuel consumption – depending on the itinerary, traffic density and the driving style – is up to 25 % less than for an standard diesel bus, whence less emission of harmful matters like NO<sub>x</sub> (causes acid rain) and CO<sub>2</sub> (causes global warming).