

PRESS RELEASE

EUROPE-WIDE DEMONSTRATION OF ELECTRIC BUSES BEGINS IN BARCELONA

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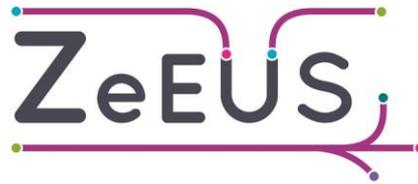
A major step towards greener urban public transport was made yesterday with the launch of the first ZeEUS (Zero Emission Urban Bus System) demonstration in Barcelona. The flagship project is the first of its kind to test 12m+ electric buses in real operation.

Barcelona is the first demonstration site of the UITP-coordinated ZeEUS project, with core demonstrations in seven other European cities to follow: London, Glasgow (UK); Stockholm (Sweden); Münster, Bonn (Germany), Plzen (Czech Republic) and Cagliari (Italy). In total, **35 plug-in hybrid, full electric and battery trolley buses** built by six European manufacturers will be tested by local operators.

With the demonstration in Barcelona, local operator TMB (Transports Metropolitans de Barcelona) will test four full electric buses: two standard i2e Irizar buses and two articulated Solaris buses. The i2e is a standard 12m bus from Spanish manufacturer Irizar and is **one of Europe's first 100% full electric buses** with a range of up to 200-250km. The bus which uses sodium-nickel batteries together with ultra-capacitors will be charged overnight in the TMB's Triangle depot and is also capable of storing the energy produced during braking. The first unit began circulating with passengers along Barcelona bus lines on 18 August.

The 18m bus, also produced in Europe from one of Europe's leading bus manufacturers, Polish company Solaris, will be charged along the route itself via 'opportunity charging'. The charging system supplies an electric charge of 400 kW CC to the bus through a retractable pantograph on the roof. The two 18m articulated buses aim to be operational in June 2015. The Barcelona demonstration, which is lead by TMB and involves ENDESA, ENIDE, UPC, IDIADA, GMV, Irizar and Solaris, will run until February 2017.

"Bus fleets have been a testing ground for alternative fuels and engines for many years, but today 95% of all buses still use fossil fuels," said **Umberto Guida**, ZeEUS



Project Director. "With this project we are well on the way to greener and smarter transport systems for our cities and electric vehicles will play a critical role in cleaning our air, making our towns and cities quieter and more enjoyable places to live and work."

"I am proud that Barcelona is the first of eight European cities selected to participate in the European project ZeEUS." said **Xavier Trias**, Mayor of Barcelona.

The launch event was enriched by the presence of the Mayor of Barcelona, Xavier Trias and Joaquim Forn, the Chairman of TMB and Vice Mayor of Barcelona.

Note to Editors

The International Association of Public Transport (UITP) is a passionate champion of sustainable urban mobility and is the only worldwide network to bring together all public transport stakeholders and all sustainable transport modes. We have 1,300 member companies giving access to 14,000 contacts from 92 countries. Our members are public transport authorities and operators, policy decision-makers, research institutes and the public transport supply and service industry. Visit our website www.uitp.org. Follow us on Twitter: [@UITPpressoffice](https://twitter.com/UITPpressoffice)

Coordinated by UITP, the ZeEUS project (Zero Emission Urban Bus System) aims to extend the fully-electric solution to a wider part of the urban bus network. This initiative is co-funded by the DG Mobility and Transport of the European Commission with a budget of €22.5m (€13.5m EU-funded). The project which began in November 2014 and will run until April 2017 will test full electric, plug-in hybrid and battery trolley buses in live operational demonstrations evaluating their economic, societal and environmental benefit. Visit our website: www.zeeus.eu – Follow us on Twitter: [@zeeusproject](https://twitter.com/zeeusproject)

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