



Press Release

World Technology First:

Proton Motor and Skoda Electric unveil the world's first public service bus that uses triple hybrid system fuel cells

Puchheim, 8 May 2009 – Today, at a preview in Puchheim, near Munich, Proton Motor Fuel Cell GmbH, the expert in industrial fuel cells, fuel cell and hybrid systems, and Skoda Electric from Pilsen/Czech Republic, will present a world first to the general public: the first public service bus to use triple hybrid system fuel cells. The official unveiling and handover will take place this summer in Prague.

The new vehicle is the product of a cooperation agreement between Skoda Electric, UJV Nuclear Research Institute Rez plc and Proton Motor. As a world-renowned manufacturer of trolley buses and electric-powered rail vehicles, Skoda Electric was responsible for the vehicle, including its electric drive system and system integration. The project was coordinated by UJV, a leading research institution in the Czech Republic. Proton supplied the world's first triple hybrid fuel cell propulsion system.

This environmentally friendly and highly efficient technology, unlike conventional hybrid propulsion systems, has no combustion engine whatsoever, and is instead a combination of fuel cells, batteries and ultracapacitors. It harnesses the advantages of electrical propulsion to the full, storing brake energy and thus enabling energy savings of over 50 per cent compared to conventional diesel buses. It is also completely emissions-free. At the heart of it all is the 50-kW PM Basic A 50 fuel cell system from Proton Motor, which since last year has also been used in the world's first fuel-cell-powered passenger ship, the FCS Alsterwasser.

The basic vehicle is a 12-metre standard bus with a total permissible weight of 18 tonnes, of the type that has been deployed hundreds of thousands of times in urban

transport networks worldwide. The propulsion system's nominal output is 120 kW (163 HP). Its maximum speed is 65 km/h, while its maximum range during urban transport is more than 250 km per tank. The bus is filled with 20 kg of gaseous hydrogen at 350 bar, and the filling process takes less than 10 minutes. The vehicle will go into operation in and around Prague from mid-2009 onwards.

“We are extremely proud to be able to once again prove our technological leadership in the field of fuel cells and hybrid systems with this city bus that runs on the triple hybrid system,” says Thomas Melczer, Managing Director and CEO of Proton Motor Fuel Cells GmbH. “But we are also leaders in the implementation of tailor-made solutions in all kinds of applications, especially for public and private fleet operators.”

Proton Motor Fuel Cell GmbH

Proton Motor Fuel Cell GmbH is an expert in industrial fuel cells, fuel-cell and hybrid systems with more than 15 years of experience in this sector. The company based in Puchheim near Munich offers complete fuel-cell and hybrid systems from a single source – from development and manufacture to implementation of customised solutions. The fuel-cell specialist focuses on back-to-base applications for fork-lift trucks or city buses, for example, as well as stationary solutions. Its range of products covers PM Basic basic fuel-cell systems, PM Package standard complete systems, e.g. as battery replacement, as well as PM Turnkey customised systems. Proton Motor is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Proton Power Systems plc. The company has been quoted on the London stock exchange since October 2006 (Code: PPS).

Further information on Proton Motor is available at www.proton-motor.de or from:

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