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@FirstBusnews

FIRST BUS AND HITACHI EUROPE TO DRIVE ZERO EMISSION AGENDA FORWARD VIA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

- Strategic partnership will support First Bus in its decarbonisation journey, starting with the provision of 148 electric buses over the next 18 months to Caledonia depot
- Agreement encompasses battery finance, smart charging software, and on site zero carbon power generation
 - First Bus and Hitachi Europe to present joint COP26 event

Today, First Bus is pleased to announce that the company has selected Hitachi Europe as a prime strategic partner for the decarbonisation programme at its flagship Caledonia bus depot in Glasgow.

The partnership will deliver an 'as a service' offering including bus batteries for First Glasgow's electric vehicle (EV) fleet, smart charging software to manage EV charging, and a decarbonisation programme that will explore low carbon energy opportunities, with a view to First Bus eventually being able to generate and use its own electricity.

Hitachi Europe - a principal partner of COP26 and First Bus will also collaborate on a COP26 event 'Together for our Planet' that will take place at the Caledonia depot.

Andrew Jarvis, Portfolio Managing Director, First Bus said, "As leaders in sustainable mobility, First Bus is keen to work with suppliers, partners, and stakeholders to support swift and significant changes in the bus market. This innovative and progressive partnership with Hitachi exemplifies that we aren't just committed to meeting Government guidelines about sustainable energy, but that we're eager to explore and create greener solutions for the future."

Ram Ramachander, Chief Commercial Officer, SIB EMEA and Chief Digital Officer, Hitachi Europe, said, "Our partnership with First Bus marks a significant step for Hitachi in our goal to deliver zero carbon solutions to the mobility sector. We are immensely proud to be a part of this important deployment and look forward to helping First Bus deliver full fleet decarbonisation by 2035 and working together on wider sustainable technology innovations."

In this initial deployment at the Caledonia depot, Hitachi is providing:

- Battery as a service
- Smart Charging
- Decarbonisation solutions on-site

Battery as a service

Hitachi Europe will provide bus batteries for First Glasgow's electric fleet. The batteries will be available on a subscription basis for the buses based at the Caledonia depot.

This innovative model guarantees a minimum state of health for each battery, ensuring the bus operator achieves the best possible performance when delivering its services throughout the life of the contract, and will also specify the optimum time to replace each battery.

Smart charging software

Hitachi Europe will also provide telematics on the Caledonia depot's buses and electric charging points. The telematics will provide live status information on each charging point and their processes, enabling remote charging and the ability to tell which vehicles are connected to which charger.

This will provide the First Glasgow depot team with vehicles' real-time information, allowing them to see how long each bus has left to charge until it is fully powered.

The software will help ensure that charging demand does not pull too much power from the grid at peak times, helping balance requirements and the costs of electricity.

Decarbonisation programme

First Bus and Hitachi Europe will collaboratively design low carbon technology such as solar panels and battery energy storage solutions for the site. There is potential that this aspect of the partnership will eventually lead to First Glasgow generating and consuming its own electricity as well as meeting local community environmental, social, and governance (ESG) needs by delivering zero-carbon charging hubs for other business fleet users.

COP26 event

As a Principal Partner of COP26, Hitachi Europe is already playing a pivotal role in the climate change conference, but they will also deliver a 'Together for our planet' event with First Glasgow at the Caledonia depot.

The event will include a virtual headset tour of the city and site, a drive-in cinema that will show a documentary on the history of public transportation that guests can watch while they charge their vehicles, guest speakers from the transport, energy, and climate industries, a Climate Café run in collaboration with Climate Reality – a campaign group founded by former US Vice President, Al Gore – and local sustainable drinks company, Dear Green Coffee, which will serve sustainable food and drinks from edible cups.

Ends

For more information, please contact the First Bus PR team at firstbuspressoffice@grayling.com or Graeme Lafferty at graeme.lafferty@firstbus.co.uk or Kelly Smith, PR Manager for Hitachi Europe at Kelly.smith@hitachi-eu.com

About First Bus

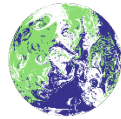
First Bus is one of the UK's largest bus operators – and the partner of choice for innovative and sustainable transport. Leading the transition to a low-carbon future, First Bus has committed to operating a zero-emission bus fleet by 2035 and to not purchasing any new diesel buses after December 2022. Working proactively with local authority partners, First Bus is proud to be making a positive impact on air quality, tackling congestion and improving customer experience. Making journeys easier for customers, First Bus was the first national bus operator to accept contactless card payments across all services and the First Bus app is voted 'best in class' amongst UK bus operators. First Bus is a division of FirstGroup.

About Hitachi Europe

Hitachi Europe Ltd., a subsidiary of Hitachi, Ltd., is headquartered in Buckinghamshire, UK. The company is focused on its Social Innovation Business - delivering innovations that answer society's challenges. Hitachi Europe and its subsidiary companies offers a broad range of information & telecommunication systems; rail systems, power and industrial systems; industrial components & equipment; automotive systems, digital media & consumer products and others with operations and research & development laboratories across EMEA.

Hitachi is a Principal Partner of COP26, playing a leading role in the efforts to achieve a decarbonized society and become a climate change innovator. Hitachi strives to achieve carbon neutrality at all its business sites by 2030 and across the company's entire value chain by 2050.

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