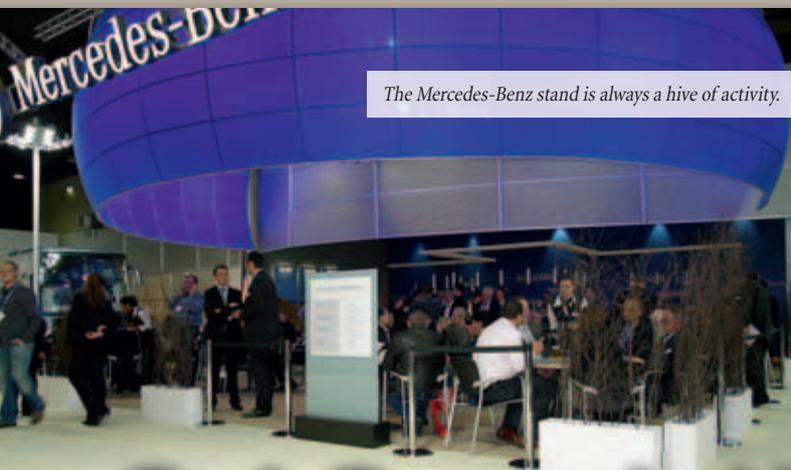




busworld NEWSLETTER



The Mercedes-Benz stand is always a hive of activity.

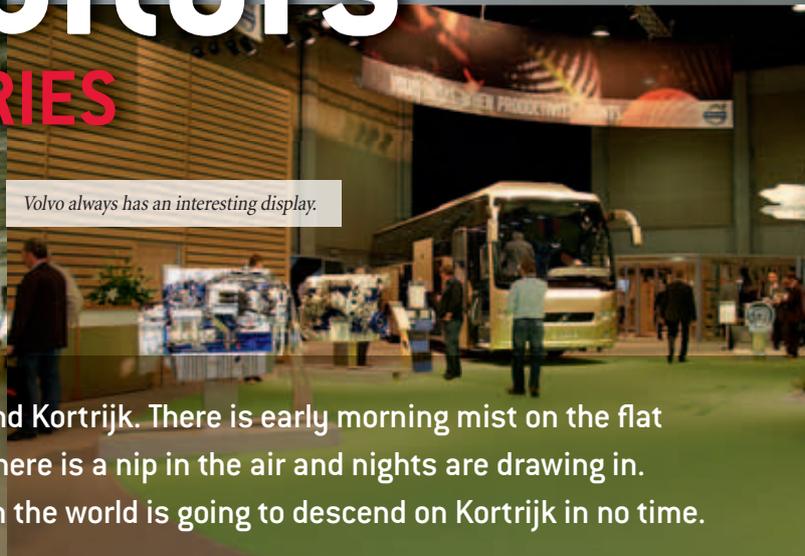


MAN is another valued exhibitor at Busworld.

340 exhibitors FROM 32 COUNTRIES



Expect to see the new Irisbus Magelys Pro in Busworld.



Volvo always has an interesting display.

The first signs of autumn are coming to Flanders and Kortrijk. There is early morning mist on the flat plains and leaves are turning brown on the trees. There is a nip in the air and nights are drawing in. These are all signs that the largest bus exhibition in the world is going to descend on Kortrijk in no time.

All the indications are that this latest edition will be the biggest and best ever Busworld. There will be 340 exhibitors from 32 countries. There will be more floor area than ever before and an additional entrance area to help speed the entry of more than 25,000 visitors.

Mieke Glorieux, Director of Busworld Kortrijk, and her team are looking forward eagerly to Busworld. "It feels like a marathon. We started planning for this event two years ago when we reviewed the previous edition, immediately after it closed. We took on board many comments from exhibitors, visitors, the media and the management of Kortrijk Xpo.

"Two years ago, the global financial situation was worse than it is today. We had some pes-

simistic moments when we wondered if the industry was going to be able to support this upcoming edition of Busworld. We took some comfort from the fact that buses and coaches have historically been remarkably resilient to the effects of recessions but, even so, we were delighted when the orders started coming in for space at Busworld.

"Working with Kortrijk Xpo, we are able to offer more space than ever before, yet we had a waiting list of companies wanting to take space. All that planning is now complete and we will soon be starting with the build up of all the exhibition stands, ready for the press days and the official opening.

"We are greatly encouraged by the fact that overall global sales of buses and coaches look like being higher this year than in the previous

two years. That's good news for manufacturers, the component suppliers and those who provide services to the industry. It will help greatly to create the right atmosphere for business at Busworld Kortrijk. As usual, there will be a number of world premieres with a strong emphasis on new and improved technology.

"For my team and I, the preparation for Busworld Kortrijk feels like a marathon but we are on the home straight. All our preparations are falling into place and we very much look forward to welcoming everyone to Busworld!

"We promise to provide a great atmosphere to do business, meet old friends and make new ones!"

vdl futura 2

WINS TOP AWARD

Every two years, in the early summer preceding Busworld Kortrijk, European coach manufacturers submit their latest models for testing by the International Bus & Coach of the Year jury. Each of the 19 highly experienced judges comes from a leading European trade journal, with one member for each country.

The winner was a VDL Futura 2, a 12.9m long model on two axles, powered by a DAF EEV engine developing 410bhp.



The new VDL Futura alongside the Citea, which was Bus of the Year 2011.

The jury praised the Futura 2 for its all round performance, combining ease of driving and a roomy, well laid out cockpit with excellent passenger comfort. They also remarked on the potential for low ownership costs as a result of the light weight and competitive price.

They particularly liked the quality of materials used in the coach, and noted that the assembly was to luxury car standards. The judges also praised the smoothness of the ride and handling, and the seamless link between the

engine and the fully automated ZF AS-Tronic gearbox.

The coveted "International Coach of the Year 2012" prize will be handed over to VDL Bus & Coach at Busworld Kortrijk by Stuart Jones, Chairman of the International Bus & Coach of the Year Jury.

It will be a double celebration for VDL, because its Citea city bus won the "International Bus of the Year 2011" award last year.

NEW VOLVO CITY BUS LAUNCH

Volvo Bus Corporation plans to launch the new 7900 city bus in Kortrijk. Research among customers confirmed that buses with the lowest life cycle costs were imperative. The new model will be lighter than its predecessor and shares a number of components with the 8900 interurban models which were launched

last year. They use a combination of steel and aluminium construction to reduce weight and fuel consumption. Special attention has also been given to facilitating service and maintenance.

At Busworld Kortrijk, Volvo will also show a new version of the 8900 low entry interurban bus. It has no pedestals but a lower window line, meeting the requirements of several markets in Central Europe.



The new 8900 interurban model was launched last year.



NEW BAAV PRESIDENT

Redgy Deschacht has been appointed President of BAAV, the parent of Busworld.

WINNING NEW BUS PASSENGERS

Stagecoach Group, one of the largest public transport operators in Europe has a well-deserved reputation for innovation and developing passenger growth. At its headquarters in Perth, Scotland, a small team, led by Elaine RossCraig, has developed telemarketing to a very fine art.

Whenever a new route is about to be introduced, or an existing route upgraded with new vehicles, her team contacts all the people living within reasonable walking distance of the route to give them the offer of free tickets so that they can try the service without obligation. Tickets are sent out in attractive wallets.



Stagecoach sends free tickets in an attractive wallet.

Research has shown that new riders are attracted to buses and are pleasantly surprised to be free from the hassle and cost of parking in urban centres. Commuting by bus makes sound financial sense, especially when people calculate the true costs of running cars and other costs like parking.

IRIZAR WILL LAUNCH THE i6

Two years ago, at Busworld Kortrijk, Irizar launched integral versions of its popular PB top-of-the-range coach and the interurban i4 coach. They created a major stir, because, until that time, Irizar was known as a builder of coach bodywork on a variety of chassis.

It could not have escaped the notice of Irizar management that complete integral vehicles have, over the years, taken a steadily increasing share of European bus and coach registrations. It needs economies of scale to justify integral production, but Irizar has factories in Brazil, Mexico, Morocco, South Africa and joint ventures in India and China. It is already a global manufacturer.

Since that time, the new i6 integral coach has been introduced, fitting into the range between the i4 and the PB. The i6 is available on two axles at 12.2 or 12.92 metres overall length and a height of 3.73 metres, including air conditioning. There is a choice of two DAF engines. For lighter applications, the 9.2 litre PR265 Euro 5 is available and can be coupled to either a fully automatic ZF gearbox or the popular AS-Tronic automated unit. Where more power is required, the larger 12.9 litre MX300 engine is offered, but only with the ZF AS-Tronic gearbox. ZF has also supplied the independent front suspension and rear axles for the i6.

Irizar is introducing the i6 on a selective basis. In the important domestic Spanish market, it is available as a body on a range of chassis. On the other hand, it is being introduced steadily into other European markets which



The new Irizar i6 integral coach.

are already familiar with Irizar products and like the concept of a complete coach supplied and fully supported by one manufacturer.



Busworld Kortrijk is preceded by the European Coach and Bus Week which will be held this year from 15 to 18 October. There are separate categories for buses and coaches. A whole series of tests will be carried out by experts on the Xpo Kortrijk site and selected test routes in the surrounding area.

Teams of judges look at all aspects of the vehicles, such as ride and handling, safety, facilities for drivers, tour guides and passengers and all the other factors which identify really good vehicles!

European Coach Week has established a reputation for playing a pioneering and independent role, helping manufacturers in the development of new products.

The competition is open not only to touring coaches, which was the original purpose, but



The participants at the European Coach Week 2009.

also to city and interurban buses. There have been many developments with the latter, especially accessibility for people with disabilities.

ECW was one of the first to recognise the importance of environmental aspects in buses and coaches, and has kept ahead of the game. Once again, there will be a specific award for the bus or coach with the highest score for innovation related to the environment.

Indeed, innovation is one of the highest priorities in the minds of the jury members. They will be looking for new developments in the areas of safety, environmental friendliness, accessibility, comfort, technology and design.

Busworld has unrivalled media connections. The results of European Coach Week will be communicated by the very latest media tools. Not just the winners, but all the participants, will be given maximum media coverage by trade magazines, radio, television and internet, all over the world.

Busworld partners and contacts, from Kortrijk to Shanghai, from Mumbai to Moscow and Is-

tanbul will be given a full update every day on events and ECW.

Presentation of the award will be made during the official opening of Busworld on Thursday 20 October and, as always, winners will be proud to display their awards on their product during the exhibition.

At the time of going to press with this Newsletter, there were seven confirmed entrants in the coach sector and nine for buses. Products ranged from full size vehicles to a number of interesting and novel smaller products.

The full list of awards is as follows:

Busworld Kortrijk Grand Awards:

- Coach.
- Bus.
- Midi/Mini Bus.
- Midi/Mini Coach.

Busworld Kortrijk Environment Award.
Busworld Kortrijk Innovation Award.
Busworld Kortrijk Styling and Design Award.

multiple launch

FROM VAN HOOL

Van Hool has chosen Busworld Kortrijk for the official launch of the new TX range of coaches. They will replace the T9 range which has proved very popular and won many international awards since its introduction.

So far, only an artist's impression has been released, but the new T9 continues with the Van Hool tradition of clean and classic styling. That will please the many owners of T9 models, because their coaches will not look out of date.

The TX incorporates many new features based on 60 years of manufacturing experience and feedback from customers, passengers and drivers. There are many new technological developments. Ride and handling has been advanced. New features have been introduced for passenger comfort, entertainment, climate control and the driver's area. Optimisation has been a guiding force in the new design. Externally, the TX has a modernised shape with new lighting and a more sporty and dynamic appearance, with long-life LED lighting units.

Drivers will like the new dashboard which incorporates the AS-Tronic gear lever. A multi-function knob controls mirrors, interior lighting and heating. The courier has an updated workplace with an extendable worktop and integrated lighting as standard.



The new ExquiCity has already taken orders.

The new TX range has been developed in readiness for the installation of Euro 6 engines. At Busworld Kortrijk, Van Hool will present a TX11 Alicron, a TX16 Alicron, a TX16 Astron, a TX17 Astronef, a TX17 Altano and a TDX27 Astromega.

As if that is not enough, Van Hool will also launch for the first time in Europe the new ExquiCity BRT model for high quality public transport projects. This vehicle combines the

flexibility of a bus with the efficiency and passenger appeal of a tram. It stands out from ordinary buses and fits easily into a high quality operating environment.

More importantly, ExquiCity is not a prototype. Orders have been taken already for 39 vehicles from three countries. ExquiCity can be offered in articulated or bi-articulated layouts, with a choice of diesel electric hybrid, fuel cell hybrid, or full electric (trolleybus) propulsion.

SOLARIS ALL-ELECTRIC MIDIBUS

Solaris is one of the most innovative of European bus manufacturers, having developed a range of city buses that can be powered by diesel, diesel hybrid, compressed natural gas, biogas and all-electric (trolleybus).

The latest development, to be launched at Busworld Kortrijk, will be an Alpino 8.9LE midibus



Solaris will launch this all-electric midibus.

bus with Vossloh Kiepe traction system and energy management. Solaris will refine and further develop this innovative technology so

that, in a few years time, electric buses will be able to fully replace diesel buses on normal services.

FIRST EURO 6 COACH AT BUSWORLD

Mercedes-Benz will launch a Travego coach at Busworld Kortrijk with a totally new Euro 6 engine. The OM971 unit has six cylinders in line and a displacement of 12.8 litres. It is therefore substantially lighter than the previous 16.0 litre V8 OM502LA engine which it replaces. Even so, it develops 476bhp at 1,900rpm and there will be the option of 510bhp.

The new engine is the result of an intensive development programme. It meets Euro 6 emission limits by a combination of Selective Catalytic Reduction and Exhaust Gas Recirculation, plus a particulate filter. The whole of the



The new OM971 Euro 6 engine will be in a Travego coach.

exhaust gas after-treatment system has been contained within a centralised housing.

The engine compartment of the Travego has been modified. Externally, the coach gains additional radiator grilles. Internally, there is a wall which separates the engine from the radiator compartment. The capacity of the cooling system has been increased by 30%. In order to compensate for the additional weight at the rear of the coach, the fuel tanks have been relocated ahead of the front axle.

In a pre-Busworld presentation, Angela Titzrath-Grimm, Head of Sales, Marketing and Service, said that the Euro 6 option was not

legally required yet but had been introduced "Because, unlike other brands, we can do it!"

Busworld Kortrijk will also be the first public launch of the new Citaro city bus range. There are more than 20 variations of the previous Citaro family, therefore it will take many months to carry out all the engineering to replace them with the new generation, in readiness for the introduction of Euro 6 engines.

The new Citaro in Kortrijk will be a 12.1-metre city bus with an EEV engine. The new Citaro is the first city bus to have ESP as a standard option and to meet ECE R66.01 roll-over requirements.



The new Citaro will have its public launch in Busworld.

SWISS TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS

The Swiss manufacturer, Hess, has developed a number of innovative transport solutions. The company says that the gratifying expansion of the public transport sector has led to increasing demand for larger transport vehicles in conurbations. The SwissHybrid is available in two layouts. The 18-metre articulated model has drive on the second and third axles, ensuring safe driving characteristics even in very bad weather.

For customers requiring greater capacity, the SwissHybrid is also available as a bi-articulated vehicle up to 25m long. It has two steering axles and two driven axles. Hess also produces full electric trolleybus versions. Despite their great length, they are remarkably manoeuvrable.

Another Swiss innovation is the use of full size passenger trailers, towed by a standard 12-metre bus. The trailer can be attached and

detached quickly, offering substantial extra capacity at peak periods. The concept has been developed with the city of Zug which will take delivery of a further ten units early next year.

All Hess structures are built in a bolted aluminium system which is resistant to weight, beneficial to fuel consumption, and totally recyclable.



A Hess SwissHybrid bus in Dresden.

BYD LAUNCH AT BUSWORLD

BYD is an innovative Chinese company in which super-investor Warren Buffet holds a 10% shareholding.

BYD stands for Build Your Dreams. It is a major corporation employing more than 200,000 people. It began life as a producer of lithium batteries which power many of the world's top selling mobile phones and other devices. It entered the automotive industry in 2006. The eBUS-12 is its first bus model and is due to enter trial service in several European cities, including London, Copenhagen, Frankfurt and Amsterdam.

BYD says that the 12-metre bus has a range of 250km on a full charge. The vehicle on display at Busworld is an early steel-bodied prototype, but production models will have aluminium bodywork with a lower unladen weight. The Fe batteries are non-polluting and the materials can be recycled or scrapped without disposal problems. The company plans to introduce a



7-metre model and a double deck bus in the near future.

The drive system incorporates wheel hub electric motors and regenerative braking which helps to recharge the batteries. Another novel feature is the use of roof-mounted solar panels which help to top up the batteries. Other features include electronically controlled air suspension, ABS and ASR.

Many industry observers believe that all-electric buses represent the future for urban transport. It is therefore highly relevant that BYD has chosen to launch its new vehicle at Busworld Kortrijk. It took diesel engines around ten years to go from early prototype to

reliable and economical production models. All-electric buses are clearly in their infancy, but the development potential is enormous.

MASATS NEW BUS DOORS

Masats, one of the global leaders in accessibility systems for buses, coaches and trains, will present the innovative Q28c integrated sliding door at Busworld. This new design saves time at each stop and is equipped with an opening mechanism that minimises the space needed

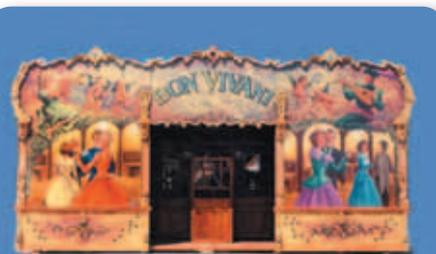
outside the vehicle, thus avoiding contact with any installations on pavements.

Some of the interior mechanisms are hidden and therefore improve the space available for passengers. Unlike other models, the pillar located on each side of the door does not rotate, allowing it to be used as a hand-pole by passengers, without risk of injury.



Join us on Twitter and Facebook!

Receive the latest news in the run-up to the trade fair and while it's going on. All you have to do is register on our website www.busworld.org



MIRROR PALACE

Mieke Glorieux, Director of Busworld Kortrijk, would like to remind all readers that the Mirror Palace will be open every evening during Busworld. "A lot of effort has gone into making this a great place to relax in the evenings. It is centrally located in Schouwburgplein, in the middle of Kortrijk. It will be the best place in town to meet friends after a busy day at Busworld."

Admission is free, but please show your Busworld badge to gain entry.

More info:
www.busworld.org/visitors/nightlife

NEWSLETTER ONLINE

The Busworld Newsletter is now available on-line at www.busworld.org. Alternatively, we can arrange to send it to you by e-mail.

Please make your request to philippe.lefebvre@busworld.org.