



Press information

Volvo agrees with European electric bus manufacturers on open interface for charging

Volvo and the European bus manufacturers Irizar, Solaris and VDL have agreed to ensure the interoperability of electric buses with charging infrastructure provided by ABB, Heliox and Siemens. The objective is to ensure an open interface between electric buses and charging infrastructure and to facilitate the introduction of electric bus systems in European cities.

“It is a very important decision that has been taken by some of the most important actors on the electric bus market. The interface is open to use by all suppliers of electric buses and charging infrastructure. European cities can now rest assured that the different systems are compatible with one another and that lock-in effects are avoided. Thereby we have created the preconditions for an accelerated transfer to electric bus systems in the cities, said Håkan Agnevall, President Volvo Buses.

European bus manufacturers Irizar, Solaris, VDL and Volvo have together with charging system suppliers ABB, Heliox and Siemens agreed to an open, transparent and voluntary approach. Common, preferred interfaces will be opened-up for all market participants and will be used for electric buses with so called opportunity charging (fast charging at end stops) and for overnight charged electric buses.

The group is committed to contribute to European standardization activities and to share experiences with CEN/CENELEC and ISO/IEC in order to establish a common European standard for electric bus systems. The public transport community is preparing for electric buses in Europe and standardization activities have started via the European body (CEN-CENELEC) and via the international organization for standardization (ISO/IEC). European standards are expected to come in place 2019 and international standards in 2020.

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