



Press release Busworld Europe 2019

18.10.2019

## Busworld Awards: more and electric

Traditions are there to be respected. Every Busworld Europe edition comes with a Busworld Awards, formerly called European Coach Week (ECW). That was no different this year, but the decor was more majestic than before: the Atomium.

Last Saturday, more than twenty vehicles which are used for all kinds of tests in all sorts of categories gathered around the most famous monument in Belgium. The predominance of buses, mainly electrically powered, was striking, apart from the large number of participants. An international jury judged each car down to the last bolt. Those who eventually won the highly desired Busworld Awards are immediately recognizable by the stands of the winners at Busworld itself.

Ten Busworld Awards were awarded in the bus and coach category. The Grand Award Bus went to the hydrogen-powered **Van Hool Exqui.City 18**, the Grand Award Coach went to the **Volvo 9900**. The jury ranked the VDL Futura FHD2-135 and the Van Hool EX11H 2nd and 3rd.

During this edition, the members of the jury observed some general trends. Yutong and, by extension, all Chinese manufacturers have made significant progress in general and already meet European standards in many areas. A second observation concerns the guide facilities.

The Tour guide media have been greatly improved: the availability and user-friendliness of connections is improved: multimedia, WIFI, laptop connection and mobile devices with screens and sound are improving significantly.

A third observation: cameras are replacing mirrors. This is beneficial for maneuvering and safety reasons. Finally, the vehicles with an alternative powertrain (electric, gas, fuel cell) were all of a very similar quality and level.

### Grand Award Bus for Van Hool Exqui.City 18 FC Design Pau

The Van Hool Exqui.City 18 FC trambus destined for the southern French city of Pau received the Busworld Grand Award Bus. Thanks to its 300 km capacity of operational autonomy, which totally surpasses that of other vehicles, the hydrogen fuel cell bus has also been awarded the Ecology label.

The Grand Award Bus was awarded to the **Van Hool Exqui.City 18 FC** hydrogen/fuel cell bus destined for the southern French city of Pau. The jury praised the safety features, the completely separated driver's desk with centrally located controls, the excellent visibility for the driver and



the multitude of cameras covering the entire external area of the bus. In addition, this trambus was awarded the Ecology Bus label for its greater autonomy in comparison with electric vehicles.

The Comfort Bus label was awarded to the **Mercedes-Benz eCITARO** for its highly ergonomic approach to the driver's desk, the space, the accessibility of everything, the display and the equipment.

The **Yutong U12** was awarded the Bus Design label thanks to its European level of design, as well as its high score with regard to the aesthetic balance of the interior and its overall appearance on the outside.

The **MAN Lion's City 12G** was praised due to its extensive passive safety features for the driver, the acoustic blind spot warning, the mirrors displaying the entire front of the bus and the overall high ratings for other safety aspects for the driver and passengers in general. All of these features suffice to award the newcomer the Safety Bus label.

## Grand Award Coach for Volvo 9900

With its **new 9900**, Volvo wins through good scores on design, maintenance, ride quality, comfort and acceleration. Designed and built in Poland, the 9900 stands head and shoulders above the competition according to the jury.

Safety is another quality of this car. Also in this category the difference with the other vehicles is quite substantial, which yields Volvo the Safety Award once again. The jury was impressed by the passive & active safety automated fire extinguishing system, black box system or on board computer, the driver passive safety (energy absorption zone) and the passenger safety (light entrance and exit).

The **COMFORT COACH** Award goes to the double-decker **Setra S531 DT** and **Van Hool EX11**. Both ended ex-aequo. The Setra performs well on driver comfort, tour guide media & passenger environment and comfort. As far as the Tour guide media is concerned, everything is available. This is not the case for all vehicles.

The Van Hool EX11 performs well on vehicle ergonomics, driver ergonomics, touring guide comfort (space, extra micro) and media and passenger comfort. In addition, the audio system, the space between seats, the armrest between seats, leg space and the VIP set up also appealed to the jury.

The **DESIGN COACH** Award goes to the Chinese manufacturer **YUTONG T13**. The jury liked both the design of the exterior and the interior. The finishing and placement of the interior, equipment and components were very accurate.

The **ECOLOGY COACH** Award also goes to the Chinese manufacturer **YUTONG ICe12**. Yutong uses many recyclable materials in the interior (less plastic, etc., more metals). It was also the only electric vehicle in the coach category making it perform much better in terms of emissions than the other vehicles.



## Busworld Innovation Label

The Innovation Label by Busworld Awards reward innovative products and services at Busworld Europe. It guides the visitors that are interested in seeing new and innovative developments through the exhibition. The winners of the Busworld Innovation Label 2019 are:

### NON-VEHICLES

- AKASOL – AKASystem AKM CYC – The Ultra High Energy Module
- ZF Friedrichshafen AG – CeTrax
- MEKRA Lang – Digital VisionSystem
- GEA Bock GmbH – GEA Bock HR40 StarCO2mpressor
- DAFO Vehicle Fire Protection – Lilon Fire
- Stoneridge | Orloco – MirrorEye
- Volvo Bus Corporation – Volvo Electric Driveline

### VEHICLES

- King Long Motor Group – Apolong
- Ebusco – Ebusco 3.0

## Overview Busworld Awards Winners

### BUS

- Grand Award Bus: Van Hool Exqui.City 18 FC Design Pau
- Comfort Label Bus: Mercedes-Benz eCitaro
- Safety Label Bus: MAN Lion's City Hybrid
- Design Label Bus: Yutong U12
- Ecology Label Bus: Van Hool Exqui.City FC Design Pau

### COACH

- Grand Award Coach: Volvo 9900
- Comfort Label Coach: Van Hool EX11H
- Comfort Label Coach: Setra Topclass S 531 DT
- Design Label Coach: Yutong T13
- Ecology Label Coach: Yutong ICe12
- Safety Label Coach: Volvo 9900



## ON A SIDENOTE

The Van Hool Exqui.City 18 trambus will serve as a free airport shuttle between Brussels Airport and Brussels Expo from 18-23 October 2019. The shuttles leave every hour from the bus parking on level 0 at Brussels Airport, and at the main entrance at HALL 2 of Brussels Expo. This shuttle is organized by Busworld, Van Hool and Flemish Public Operator De Lijn, and is free to use for every visitor of Busworld Europe 2019.

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Note to the editors

**Busworld** started its journey in 1971 and has completed 45 years of success and established itself as the most recognized international exhibition in the world exclusively for the bus and coach industry. The mother exhibition is Busworld Europe with a worldwide coverage. Other satellite exhibitions are Russia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Colombia and Turkey. Busworld has been strengthening its presence in the global bus sector year-on-year.

Want to publish some **exhibitor announcements**? Below you can find a link to all press releases Busworld received so far, so you can personalize your article.

- Link to the Busworld Awards Page on the website  
<https://www.busworldeurope.org/exhibition/awards/busworld-awards-for-bus-coach/winners-2019>
- Exhibitor press releases for Busworld Europe 2019  
<https://www.busworldeurope.org/news-and-media/exhibitor-press-releases>
- Exhibitor list:  
<https://www.busworldeurope.org/exhibitors/exhibitor-list-2019>
- Press information (programme, accreditation, press releases..)  
<https://www.busworldeurope.org/press>
- Pictures Busworld Awards 2019:  
[link 1 to pictures](#)  
[link 2 to pictures](#)
- Video 'Busworld Awards 2019 in Brussels - Testing Day Atmosphere':  
[link to video](#)
- **Pictures Busworld flags @ Brussels Expo 2019:**  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/61252770@N06/albums/72157710894721996>



**Busworld Academy** is the knowledge platform of Busworld. Its main activity consists of sharing knowledge through the organization of conferences, seminars, workshops and networking moments. Founded in 2013, it has joined many Busworld exhibitions around the world, completing the experience of visitors and other stakeholders.

- Website: [www.busworldacademy.org](http://www.busworldacademy.org)
- International Bus Conference website [www.busconference.com](http://www.busconference.com)