

11 September 2020

# Norway: Arrival of the first e-buses in Bergen

## ***An important step towards the start of the fossil-free bus network in December 2020***

**11 September 2020** – On 10 September, the first batch of 29 electric buses arrived in Bergen as part of a contract awarded by Bergen's Skyss public transport authority for Keolis to operate and maintain 138 fossil-free buses, including 102 all-electric vehicles. The all-electric Yutong buses are being shipped from Shanghai in three batches and are due to arrive in Bergen by the end of September 2020.

Expected to carry 17 million passengers a year, the fossil-free buses will contribute to improving quality of life for the nearly 300,000 inhabitants of Norway's second largest city, where Keolis already operates the light rail network.

Featuring 88 12 metre-long buses and 14 15 metre-long buses, the vehicles will offer 7 to 10 hours of autonomy depending on operating conditions. The shift from diesel to electric vehicles will reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by approximately 85% over the duration of the bus contract. Each diesel bus replaced with an all-electric alternative will save about 50 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

The buses are temporarily parked in a parking lot in Bergen and will be transferred to the Mannsverk depot, scheduled to open in early November 2020, where work is underway to install the recharging infrastructure.

The nine and a half year contract for the operation and maintenance of 138 fossil-fuel-free buses, which also includes 10 trolley buses made by Solaris and 26 HVO buses made by Volvo, was awarded to Keolis on 17 June 2019. The management team has been recruited and 285 full-time drivers are being voluntarily transferred from the incumbent operator or recruited externally. The bus drivers will start operations on 1 December 2020 after completing their training programme.

## **Keolis' commitment to accelerating the transition to greener energies worldwide**

Keolis works hand-in-hand with public transport authorities around the world to integrate more sustainable mobility within networks for the benefit of passengers and the environment. The Group operates fossil-free buses in Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, the US, Canada and France, where it has recently launched electric and hydrogen Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lines.

## **A decade-long presence in Norway**

Keolis has been operating in Norway since 2010. With the start of the bus contract on 1 December, Keolis expands its operational footprint in Norway where its staff will grow to 500 employees.



In 2010, Keolis began operating the Bergen light rail network which is 20 kilometres long and counts 28 trams. In 2019, the contract was renewed for another eight years and now includes maintenance services in addition to operations.

The success of this light rail network has encouraged the public transport authority to develop plans for further expansions, with firm plans for a northern line and a new extension to the western line due to open in 2022-2023. Between 12 and 14 new trams will be added to the network.

#### About Keolis

Keolis is a pioneer in developing public transport systems and works alongside public decision-makers who want to turn shared mobility systems into levers to enhance the appeal and vitality of their regions. A world leader in operating automated metro and tramway systems, Keolis is supported by a sustained and open innovative policy alongside all of its partners and subsidiaries –Kisio, EFFIA, Keolis Santé and Cykleo –to bolster its core business and develop new innovative and bespoke shared mobility solutions, including trains, buses and coaches, trolleybuses, shared car solutions, river and sea shuttle services, bike share services, car sharing, fully electric driverless shuttles and urban cable cars. In France, Keolis is the second largest parking company through its subsidiary EFFIA, and the country's leading medical transport solution since the creation of Keolis Santé in July 2017. The Group is 70%-owned by SNCF and 30%-owned by the Caisse de Dépôt et Placement du Québec (Quebec Deposit and Investment Fund), and employs some 68,500 people in 15 countries. In 2019, it posted revenue of €6.6 billion. In 2019, 3.4 billion passengers used one of Keolis' shared mobility services. [www.keolis.com](http://www.keolis.com)

\* Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, India, the Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Senegal, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.

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