



Press release (world premiere)

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New HESS Bus-Zug

After a comprehensive test phase the new HESS bus train commenced scheduled operations with the Zugerland Verkehrsbetriebe (ZVB) on the Zug-Oberaegeri and Zug-Menzingen mountain routes on 01 April 2011. A further ten bus trains will be delivered in the course of 2011 and in early 2012.

The main benefits of the bus train design, which consists of a tractor unit and an optional passenger trailer, are high capacity and acknowledged good economic efficiency on routes with major deviations in demand. Capacity can be doubled quickly and an expensive second vehicle with driver rendered unnecessary. HESS developed the latest generation of bus trains in close cooperation with Europe's leading user of bus trains, the Zugerland Verkehrsbetrieben, on the basis of these benefits. Unique know-how gained from experience was thus generated by both user and maker. The slogan here might be said to be "designed based on practical experience for use in practice". The new bus train generation is characterised by many technical refinements, passenger appeal and economic efficiency, all of which make it an excellent seller.

The new bus train generation are all low-floor and offer many economic benefits thanks to a myriad technical refinements as well as being popular with passengers. Optically they integrate seamlessly in the HESS bus range. HESS bus trains are available with 3, 4 or 5 low-floor entrances. The panorama windows in the front row make travelling on this bus a really enjoyable experience. The fully air-conditioned low-floor buses are 22.9 meters long and have a permissible maximum weight of 31 tonnes. The chassis features individual wheel suspension on the first, third and fourth axles. This makes for very comfortable travel.

HESS emphasises low repair and maintenance costs for their bus trains, just as they do for all their products. The new range of buses are maintenance- and service-friendly as well as being very rust resistant and long lived thanks to the CO-BOLT[®] body and the ladder framework chassis of both tractor units and trailers. The power train consists of a Cummins 8.9-liter 6-cylinder diesel engine, a VERT-certified particle filter and a ZF Ecolife automatic gearbox. The bus's exhaust gases classification is EURO 5 EEV.

HESS built its first passenger trailer in 1943 for the Swiss Post Office. The Swiss bus maker developed this type of vehicle for decades thereafter and presented the world's first low-floor passenger trailer in 1987. As the sole surviving bus train maker HESS began the European rebirth of this flexible transport means in 2003. HESS bus trains are currently in use in Germany, Austria and Luxembourg as well as Switzerland.

HESS was founded in 1882 near the historic city of Solothurn by Heinrich Hess. The group currently employs 450 people including 30 apprentices in its main works in Bellach and its various branches. Licensees manufacture 2,500 HESS buses annually in the US and in Australia, Portugal, Israel and Rumania among other

countries. The group was awarded Solothurn's Entrepreneur Award in 2008 for consistent entrepreneurial excellence.

Further information is available at www.hess-ag.ch.

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