



Press release Busworld 2011

Dated 15 September 2011

Dear Sir or Madam,

At the Busworld 2011 in Kortrijk the bus manufacturer HESS will be on Stand 2-1 in Hall 2 with information on the news and events of recent weeks detailed below and much else.

- **BusZug**, our new generation bus train
- **SwissHybrid**, a new addition to our hybrid family
- **SwissTrolley**, a new European member of our bus family

BusZug

After comprehensive testing the new bus train made by Hess commenced operations for the Zugerland Verkehrsbetriebe (ZVB) on the Zug-Oberaegeri and Zug-Menzingen alpine routes. Ten more will be delivered in early 2012.

The main advantages of this design, consisting of a bus as tractor unit and a trailer, are high capacity and profitability on routes with high demand variation. Capacity can quickly be doubled to meet the need, use of an expensive additional vehicle with driver being unnecessary. We developed this new generation of bus train in close cooperation with Europe's leading operator of the type, the Zugerland Verkehrsbetriebe. This made for a unique exchange of know-how and field experience between operator and maker. The new bus train hence has a lot of new technical details and features that appeal to passengers as well as economic benefits to operators.

This latest generation is low-floored throughout and can be optimised for seating or standing capacity as needed. Optically it's instantly recognisable as a member of our bus range. The bus train is available with 3, 4 or 5 low-floor doors. The panorama windows in the front make travelling in this bus a pleasure. This fully air-conditioned low-floor bus is 22.9 metres long with a maximum overall weight limit of 31 tonnes. The chassis features individual wheel suspension on the first, third and fourth axles making the ride really comfy.

We place great emphasis on keeping repair and service costs low. Components are easily accessible and the CO-BOLT[®] body and the bus and trailer ladder frame chassis prevent rust. The power train consists of a Cummins 8.9-litre 6-cylinder diesel engine, a VERT-certified particle filter and a ZF Ecolife automatic gearbox yielding exhaust gas values that comply with EURO 5 EEV standards.

We built our first passenger trailer for the Swiss Post Office in 1943. HESS developed this type of bus further in subsequent years and presented the first low-floor passenger trailer in the world in 1987. We initiated the renaissance of this flexible system of transport in 2003 as Europe's sole surviving bus train maker. HESS bus trains are in use in Germany, Austria and Luxembourg as well as Switzerland.

SwissHybrid

Gratifying expansion of the public transport sector has led to increasing demand for larger transport vehicles in conurbations. Diesel bus networks are increasingly hitting their limits. That's why we introduced the hybrid version of the lighTram[®] high-capacity hybrid bus of approximately 25 metres length in 2007. The type's name is lighTram[®] Hybrid.

It has two steering axles giving it the same turning circle as a normal articulated bus. Two driven axles ensure safe driving characteristics even in the worst weather. The vehicle is virtually identical to our trolley bus version and produces its own energy from a diesel generator in the back. Braking energy is temporarily stored in a super-capacitor. The major benefits by comparison with a standard articulated diesel bus are the all-weather characteristics and the approximately 30% greater payload capacity.

The 18m SwissHybrid, a further model in the HESS bus range

We presented the 18-metre SwissHybrid for the first time at the InnoTrans 2010 in Berlin. The type gives operators efficient mobility whilst cutting the influence of bad weather on diesel bus networks to an absolute minimum. Two driven axles ensure safe driving characteristics even in the worst weather

Over thirty vehicles of this type are currently in daily operation in Dresden, Dusseldorf, Dortmund, Wuppertal, Ennepetal, Leipzig, Hagen and Lubeck.

Technical data

Maker	HESS
Type name	SwissHybrid
Vehicle length	Approximately 18 metres
Energy generation	Diesel generator unit, 190 kW
Passenger capacity	Approximately 140

HESS delivers the 250th SwissTrolley and receives further orders for the type from France and Zurich

HESS passed a further milestone when we delivered the 250th SwissTrolley. It was handed over to the city of Winterthur on 22 February 2011 and will bear their vehicle number 118.

The Swisstrolley is now in its third generation and the ideal solution to increasing demand in conurbations. It ideally combines the benefits of flexible public road transport with those of electric power with its sustained low emissions. The new SwissTrolley has 43 comfortable seats and lots of standing room throughout its length. This adds up to a lot of payload. At 18.7m Winterthur's new Swisstrolley is a seat row longer than the older ones in the same city. The Swisstrolley is both attractive in design and reliable in use. Winterthur has more of the type to come; they've ordered a total of 21. Swisstrolley vehicles of similar design are in use in Geneva, Lucerne, Zurich, Lausanne, Biel, St. Gallen, Neuchâtel, Fribourg, Solingen (D) and Arnhem (NL). New ones will come into use in Schaffhausen this year and further vehicles of the type have been ordered for 2012 and 2013 by Limoge (F) and Zurich.

The first Swisstrolley introduced low floors in trolley buses for the first time in 1991. It was the successor model to the high-floor type manufactured by HESS since 1940 and we invested the know-how garnered from long experience with the first model in the new type. HESS has over 70 years of experience in manufacturing electrically powered buses and is one of Europe's leading trolley bus makers.

HESS – the company

HESS was founded in 1882 near the historic city of Solothurn by Heinrich Hess. The HESS group now employs 400 people including 30 apprentices in its main works in Bellach and its various branches. Licensees annually manufacture 250 HESS buses in the USA, Australia, Portugal, Israel, Rumania and elsewhere. HESS was awarded the Solothurn Entrepreneur Prize in 2008 for sustained adherence to the entrepreneurial spirit.

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