

Media release

Wettingen, 17 June 2021



Ribbon cutting ceremony marks the start of the next step towards the e-future.

(from left to right) Robert Itschner, Chairman of the Executive Board of ABB Switzerland, Stephan Attiger, Chair of the Aargau Cantonal Council, Dr. Lorenz Höchli, Chair of the Board of RVBW AG, Alex Naef, CEO of Carrosserie Hess AG

Baden-Wettingen region: Four new electric buses with Swiss technologies enable the sustainable operation of RVBW bus route 5

Today, the regional public transport operators of Baden-Wettingen (RVBW) have inaugurated four new HESS electric buses of the type lighTram® 12 OPP for route 5: Baden, Baldegg – Ennetbaden, Äusserer Berg. The 12-metre long buses were constructed by HESS entirely in their main factory in Bellach. ABB supplied the electric drive units with energy storage and charging solutions. The drive units are supplied with renewable energy by Regionalwerke AG Baden (RWB) from regional hydroelectric power.

In the presence of representatives from politics, the project partners and the media, another milestone was reached along the road to achieving climate-neutral bus operation

by 2030. The four new emission-free and quiet vehicles will be gradually introduced on the route Baden, Baldegg – Ennetbaden, Äusserer Berg. “By switching to electric operation, we will save 155,000 litres of diesel fuel and 410 tonnes of CO₂ per annum. In doing so, we are consistently pursuing our aim of driving forward a reduction in CO₂ by switching to efficient vehicles with sustainable drive technologies in densely populated urban areas”, said Stefan Kalt, Director of RVBW. The Canton of Aargau is contributing to the costs for the charging infrastructure at the respective terminus stops.

The four lighTram®s are four completely continuous low-floor buses with an overall length of 12 metres. With their attractive design, spacious standing areas and ergonomically designed driver's consoles, these vehicles bring on to the road a new dimension in tyre-based passenger transport. Innovative energy management enables a lighter construction, and by mounting the energy storage system on the roof, up to 30% more passengers can be carried compared to conventional buses with diesel engines. The vehicles are heated purely electrically. The energy storage systems, which are manufactured by ABB in Baden, enable the recovery of braking energy and contribute to an improvement in the overall efficiency of the vehicle.

Thanks to the ‘opportunity charging’ concept, the energy storage systems can be charged with 300 kilowatts in two to four minutes during the scheduled waiting time at the terminal stops. ABB also supplied the charging stations for the complete overnight charging in the RVBW bus depot. “More than 100 years ago, our company from Baden contributed innovative solutions to more sustainable mobility”, said Robert Itschner, Chair of the Executive Board of ABB Switzerland. “And we are convinced that the future of urban transport is electric. We are pleased to be supporting RVBW on this path with our energy-efficient drive, charging and storage technologies.”

The local electricity supplier, Regionalwerke AG Baden, has also designed and installed the required high-performance charging infrastructure. One electric bus will be charged at each of the two terminus stops every 15 minutes. RWB has implemented measures to further ensure the network operation. At the Ennetbaden terminus, it was necessary to install a second transformer in the existing TS90 transformer station at Äusserer Berg. A direct connection from the transformer station was created for charging at the Baden-Baldegg terminus. To achieve this, supply cables were laid from the water tower to the charging station near the bus stop.

RVBW AG

RVBW AG is a regional public transport bus company in the Canton of Aargau governed by public law. With modern buses and well-trained staff, we transport over 14 million passengers a year safely and sustainably to their destinations. With a 15-minute frequency, and even a 7½-minute frequency on parallel routes, the majority of our passengers travel ‘without a timetable’. Thanks to the cooperation of our transport partners, Indermühle Bus AG and Twerenbold Bus AG, we are able to guarantee a public transport service normally expected in a city. www.rvbw.ch

ABB

(ABBN: SIX Swiss Ex) is a global technology company that energizes the transformation of society and industry to achieve a more productive, sustainable future.

By connecting software to its electrification, robotics, automation and motion portfolio, ABB pushes the boundaries of technology to drive performance to new levels. With a history of excellence stretching back more than 130 years, ABB’s success is driven by about 105,000 talented employees in over 100 countries. www.abb.com

HESS

Over 600 motivated and highly trained employees in the HESS group, thousands of vehicles in operation on five continents in the most diverse conditions: Since 1882, the name HESS has stood throughout the world for passion in vehicle construction, for efficient and reliable mobility, for development and progress, for innovation and creativity. The lighTram® family of electric buses developed by HESS is available in lengths from 10.7 m to 24.7 m and impressively documents the leading role played by HESS in the field of electric buses. www.hess-ag.ch

Regionalwerke Baden

The company Regionalwerke AG Baden supplies the town of Baden and the surrounding region with electricity, water, gas, heating and cooling. In addition to secure and reliable energy supply, RWB offers its customers a wide range of services in the field of energy solutions both inside and outside the supply area. As a professional in the energy sector, it supports its customers with a reliable and personal service. www.regionalwerke.ch

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