



Tuesday, 07 January 2014

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07 May 2013 | UK

Tfl: Borismasters "will save millions"



London's fleet of 600 Borismasters will cost £213million. Transport for London has confirmed the average price of each bus will be £354,500 over the four-year procurement contract and says that "millions of pounds will be saved over the life of the vehicles". And in the sort of hyperbole that seems inevitable in any announcement associated with London mayor Boris Johnson, TfL talks of "the return of the much loved open rear platform" as a benefit of the new buses.

TfL reiterates that its bulk order has reduced the cost of the buses compared with London's normal vehicle policy where individual operators or leasing companies buy smaller batches of vehicles for individual routes. And, making a virtue of the fact that the vehicles are unacceptable for operation anywhere else in the UK, TfL says that it "fully intends that these new buses will operate for their entire working life – of at least 14 years – in the capital – which means that a multi-million pound saving will be delivered over the useful life of the buses, even taking into account the marginally higher initial cost of the buses".

Boris Johnson explains: "By keeping them in harness in the capital for the entirety of their useful life, we will be extracting every last drop of value out of them. Aside from its Hollywood blockbuster good looks, this bus offers an unparalleled passenger experience and is helping to improve the capital's air quality. It also demonstrates that we, as a nation, remain a great force in design, engineering and manufacture."

No mention is made of the added cost of employing conductors, a point picked up by Green Party London assembly member Darren Johnson who says: "The New Bus for London is an expensive vanity project which the next mayor will abandon as an outdated and polluting waste of money. Londoners simply can't afford the higher fares that will come from paying £37million a year to bus assistants whose only real job is to stop people falling off the rear platform when it is open. The reason why these buses will spend their entire life in London is because no one else wants them. That is also the reason why TfL have had to buy the buses themselves, at a premium rate, rather than let the operators have all the upfront costs and risks."

Alongside the 600 Borismasters London will also be taking 600 conventional – and presumably less expensive – hybrids over the next three years. When the final batch of Borismasters is delivered in 2016 more than 1,600 hybrids will be in service in London, representing around 20 per cent of the capital's 8,500-strong bus fleet.

www.tfl.gov.uk


Related Content

20 September 2012 | News - UK

TfL orders 600 Borismasters

Transport for London is to buy 600 Borismasters from Wrightbus for delivery over four years from 2013 to 2016.

16 September 2010 | News - UK

Borismaster takes shape at Wrightbus

A mock-up of the new bus for London is taking shape at the Wrightbus factory.

16 February 2012 | News - UK

Borismaster launch delayed

Having announced with much fanfare two months ago that the first of London mayor Boris Johnson's "new Routemasters" would enter service on Monday 20 February, Transport for London has now had to delay their introduction to service by one week, saying that certification of the vehicles has taken longer than expected.

04 June 2013 | News - UK

Second Borismaster route named

The second London bus route to be converted to Borismaster operation will be the 11, in September.

26 January 2013 | News - UK

First Borismaster route announced

London mayor Boris Johnson has announced that service 24, operating from Hampstead Heath to Pimlico, will be the first route to be converted to Borismasters.

Latest News | View All News

02 January 2014 | UK

Arriva leaves Malta

Arriva has pulled out of Malta.

18 December 2013 | UK

Electric bus trial starts in London

Two Chinese-built BYD electric buses enter service in London on Thursday (19 December).

18 December 2013 | UK

Stagecoach buys Norfolk Green

Stagecoach has purchased the award-winning Norfolk Green business.

18 December 2013 | UK

Merseypride O-licence revoked

The O licence of Merseypride Travel of Liverpool has been revoked by North West traffic commissioner Beverley Bell following a public inquiry.

18 December 2013 | UK

New logo unites Edinburgh's transport

A new logo has been unveiled for Lothian Buses, to match that to be used on the city's trams when they start running in May.

12 December 2013 | UK

US growth boosts Stagecoach profits

Revenue at Stagecoach for the six months to 31 October was up 5 per cent on the same period last year

Featured Vehicles For Sale

Selection of Scania Coaches and MCV Buses For Sale
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28 March 2011 | News - UK

London to cut bus support

Support for London's heavily-subsidised bus services is to be cut by £460million over the period to 2017/18, according to Transport for London's draft business plan, published this week.

International news



EEV MANs for Tallin

MAN is supplying 40 Lion's City buses to TLT, the transport operator in the Estonian capital, Tallin. Issue 324



Volvo wins BRT order

Volvo is to supply El Salvador with 190 buses for a bus rapid transit service in the capital, San Salvador. Issue 324



Electric trial for Montreal

Nova Bus and Montreal transport operator STM have agreed a three-year trial of three Nova LFSe electric buses. Issue 324



Argentina auto artic trial

A prototype front-engined Mercedes-Benz 1725 articulated bus with an Allison Torqmatic automatic gearbox with a retarder is being tested in Santa Fe. Issue 324



King's Class for Twerenbold

Swiss coach operator Twerenbold Reisen has ordered 13 VDL Futura FHD2s. Issue 324



Hybrids for Hanover

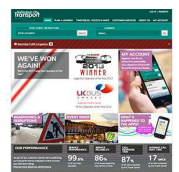
Nine Solaris Urbino articulated buses with Allison H50EP hybrid drives have entered service with Ustra in Hanover. Issue 323

Product news



New messaging app for Arriva

A new messaging system that claims to herald the arrival of "true real-time communication with bus customers". Issue 322



Responsive design for new NCT website

Nottingham City Transport has developed a new website that it claims will make travel and journey planning even easier for all passengers. Issue 322



Hydrovane compressors for NBfL

Hydrovane has won the order to supply compressors to power the pneumatic systems on all 600 of the next batch of Borismasters being manufactured by Wrightbus. Issue 322

at £1,473million (2012: £1,403million).

Latest vehicle deliveries



Acklams takes Elite and Enviro

Two contrasting ADL products have entered service with Acklams of Beverley. Issue 324



Tourliner is right note for Symphony

Three new 13. Issue 324



Second Solo SR for Ross Travel

Delivery by Optare of a second Solo SR to Ross Travel Group brings the Yorkshire company closer to achieving an all low-floor fleet ahead of the 2015 deadline. Issue 324



Johnsons adds new Scania OmniLinks

Johnsons Coach and Bus Travel of Henley-in-Arden has invested in two new Scania OmniLinks for its services between Birmingham and Stratford-upon-Avon routes. Issue 323



Versatile Cheetahs for Kings Ferry

The Kings Ferry, based in Gillingham, Kent, has added two new Plaxton Cheetahs to its fleet. Issue 323



Scania trio for cruise ship contracts

Princess Coaches of Southampton has taken delivery of three new Scania Irizar i6 coaches, further strengthening its ties with Scania as it builds a modern fleet to enhance its links with cruise operators in the south of England. Issue 323

Coach tourism news



See our special **e-dition** on the RDA Workshop and Cologne. Click above to view.



RDA seminar to uncover German market

The RDA is hosting a Commonwealth Seminar entitled 'Doing Successful Business in the German Coach & Group Travel Market' on Thursday 20



Making tyres from dandelion rubber

A new process to produce rubber for tyre manufacture from dandelions is being pioneered by the Fraunhofer Institute for Molecular Biology and Applied Ecology IME in Germany. Issue 321



Coaches welcome at famous transport café

The Hollies is one of the oldest transport cafés in the UK, located on the A5 just 2 minutes from the M6 junction 12. Issue 319



Candella continues to support bus destin

Formed in 2009 to support users of Bright Tech route/destination equipment with spare parts, repairs, and software updates, Candella is now embarking on its fifth year of successful trading. Issue 319

People in the news



Beagrie steps in for departing Aichinger

After some 18 months in the post, JAN AICHINGER, chief executive officer of EvoBus UK has left the company. Issue 324



Hartley moves to Wrightbus

JOHN HARTLEY has moved from Optare to join Wrightbus as national accounts manager. Issue 324



New chair for FirstGroup

JOHN McFARLANE is to be the new chairman of FirstGroup, taking over from MARTIN GILBERT on 1 January. Issue 324



Munro becomes First FD

First UK Bus has appointed STUART MUNRO as its finance director. Issue 324



New Arriva MD in Europe

Arriva has a new managing director for its growing Central and Eastern European region as part of wide restructuring. Issue 324



Wildman for Distinctive

Paul Wildman has joined software company Distinctive Systems as installation, training and support specialist at the company's head office in York. Issue 324

February 2014 in EdinburghThe meeting is free and RDA members and those involved in the coach tourism business across the UK are welcome to attend. Issue 324



Kentish ales and Canterbury Tales

The Canterbury Tales visitor attraction has launched a new group package with Shepherd Neame Brewery visitor centre. Issue 324



European lobbying by tourism alliance

The EACT European Alliance for Coach Tourism annual meeting took place at Busworld Kotrijk last month and included discussions on a Taxation Working Group synopsis on the fiscal discrimination and the administrative burdens for coach tourism operators in Europe. Issue 323



WTM 2013 tops 50,000 delegates

World Travel Market reported a 5 per cent increase in attendance with more than 50,000 delegates over the four days 4-7 November. Issue 323



New tile attraction for Ironbridge

Jackfield Tile Museum, one of the ten Ironbridge Gorge Museums in Shropshire's World Heritage Site, is offering groups a special Terrific Tiles package to highlight a new collection. Issue 323



1914 commemorations to get underway

located in the area of the First Battle of the Marne, the Musée de la Grande du Pays de Meaux, which opened on 11 November 2011, houses a large permanent collection covering 3,000 sq m of exhibits covering the First World War. Issue 322