

Friday, 9 October 2015

New London Bus Tender awards and the ZeEUS Project

LOTS (London Omnibus Traction Society) has reported on the new London Bus tender awards.

The following TfL contracts have been announced:

Tranche 513

62 re-awarded to Stagecoach East London with **new Euro VI diesel double deck** (currently single deck), PVR 16

294 re-awarded to Stagecoach East London with **new Euro VI diesel double deck**, PVR 12

366 re-awarded to Stagecoach East London with **existing Euro V single deck**, PVR 18

368 awarded to Arriva London North (currently Blue Triangle) with **existing fleet Euro V double deck** (currently single deck). PVR 10

687 awarded to Docklands Buses (currently Stagecoach East London) with **existing fleet Euro V diesel double deck**. PVR 1

Start date for all above awards is 30 April 2016

Tranche 516

69 (24 hour) awarded to Tower Transit (currently Stagecoach East London) with **existing Euro V diesel double deck and 3 ZeEUS vehicles**. PVR 18. Start date 30 April 2016

147 awarded to Docklands Buses (currently Stagecoach East London) with **existing fleet Euro V diesel double deck**, PVR 21.

Start date 7 May 2016

Tranche 520

86/N86 re-awarded to Stagecoach East London with **existing Euro V diesel double deck**, PVR 32.

Start date 16 July 2016

Tranche 522

25 (24 hour) re-awarded to Tower Transit with **existing Euro V diesel double deck**, PVR 64.

Start date 25 June 2016

26/N26 awarded to CT Plus with **new battery hybrid double deck**, PVR 18.

Start date 25 June 2016

So London Buses route's 62 and 294 will get new Euro VI diesel double deck buses whilst most of the remaining new contracts will use Euro V diesel buses.

With route 25, the contract is retained by Tower Transit with a PVR (Peak Vehicle Requirement) of 64 Euro V diesel buses, which has the largest bus usage for one route and a length of 11 miles (18 Km). But hopefully when Crossrail launches, the Peak Vehicle Requirement for the route will reduce. This route used to be served with bendy buses (Mercedes-Benz Citaro Artics) from Mid 2004 to Mid 2011. There are rumours flying about that Route 25 is to convert to New Routemaster buses.

Some good news is that Route 26 has been awarded to CT Plus with new hybrid double deck buses and route 69 will get ZeEUS buses which means *Zero Emission Urban Bus System*. But the problem is 3 zero emission buses are not enough to beat diesel emissions.

Let's see more on the [ZeEUS](#) project - from the **front page of their website it says:**

"ZeEUS, the Zero Emission Urban

*Bus System, aims to be the **main EU activity to extend the fully-electric solution to the core part of the urban bus network.** It fits within the context of the **European Commission's objective to create a competitive and sustainable transport system.***



*To achieve its mission, ZeEUS is testing innovative electric bus technologies with **different charging infrastructure solutions in ten demonstration sites across Europe.** Thanks to varied geographical and topographical characteristics, the ZeEUS demonstrations validate economic, environmental and societal viability of the **electric solutions.***

*The ZeEUS consortium represent the entire stakeholder spectrum: **public transport authorities and operators, bus manufacturers, industry suppliers, energy providers, national and international associations, research centres and consultancies.***

Moreover, the ZeEUS project closely follows the development of electric bus systems all around the world through the ZeEUS Observatory. Selected Observed and Monitored Demonstrations directly contribute to some of the ZeEUS core activities and strategic outputs."

Also, on the [about page](#) of their website it says:

*"Testing electrification solutions at the heart of the urban bus system **network through live demonstrations and facilitating the market uptake of electric buses in Europe.** ZeEUS, the Zero Emission Urban Bus System, aims to be the **flagship EU project** to extend the fully-electric solution to the core part of the urban bus network. It follows on recommendations from fellow UITP European bus system projects [EBSF and 3iBS] to apply the electric solution to urban bus systems.*

*The project fits within the context of the **European Commission's objective to create a competitive and sustainable transport system by deploying alternative fuels to reduce transport emissions and improve air quality and noise levels in urban areas.** To achieve its mission, ZeEUS will test **a wide range of different innovative electric bus technologies** and charging infrastructure solutions in **eight demonstration sites across 6 European countries** with varying operational conditions to validate their economic, environmental and social viability."*

Very interesting to see that TFL have aligned with the EU project to get involved more with the zero emission buses scheme. The ZeEUS budget is €22.5m of which €13.5M is funded from the EU.

The participating countries are:

London in England
 Stockholm in Sweden
 Randstad in the Netherlands
 Münster & Bonn in Germany
 Plzen in the Czech Republic
 Warsaw in Poland
 Paris in France
 Barcelona in Spain
 Cagliari in the Island of Sardinia, which is part of Italy

Hopefully in the near future we will see an increased fleet of zero emission buses operating in London. The conversion of [Red Arrow routes 507& 521 to electric buses](#) commences on 27th August 2016, which is a long way off.

