

IRIZAR COACH AND 100% ELECTRIC BUS NAMED BUS OF 2016: SPANISH COACH OF THE YEAR

Public Transport by Andrei Marian - January 31, 2016



Irizar Group announced that its Irizar i8 and Irizar **100% electric bus** received the **2016 Spanish Coach of the Year** and **2016 Environmentally Friendly Industrial Vehicle of the Year** awards. The awards were decided after analysing of the safety, reliability, economy and efficiency of the candidates. The jury was formed of entrepreneurs from passenger transport sector, experts from automotive industry and technical specialists.

“This double recognition comes at a time of great strength for our group and is the result of the efforts we have made in recent years to invest in technology and sustainability”, said Jose Manuel Orcasitas, managing director and CEO of Irizar Group.

This is the first time when **two Irizar buses** have received awards in the same edition, the sixth time it has won these awards and the second award for Irizar i2e, the 100% electric bus. The Irizar i2e is the first city bus that has been fully developed with **proprietary technology**, in line with the company’s strategy that focuses on close customer relationships and strengthening the brand by building complete Irizar buses.

Irizar is participating in the **ZeEUS project**, which stands for “**Zero Emission Urban bus Systems**”, to implement electric buses in major European cities. The objective of this innovative project is to develop

high-capacity electric vehicles and to create the corresponding infrastructures for recharging so as to implement a fully electric solution in most European city bus networks. Using electricity as an alternative fuel for road transport helps reduce atmospheric contamination, greenhouse gas emissions and acoustic contamination. The project is co-funded by the European Commission (DG Mobility and Transport) and led by the **International Association for Public Transport** (UITP), which coordinates the 40 partners, including Irizar, and represents all the categories of the entities involved in mobility.

The group estimates a total planned investment of **€60 million** for the development of the electric bus and its **production facilities**. The new production plant will be finished in 2016, and the demand for units prior to this date will be handled by existing facilities.