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Launch of a Virtual Knowledge Base for Fuel Cell Electric Buses: www.fuelcellbuses.eu

Brussels, 28 November 2016

The High V.LO-City project, which aims at facilitating the deployment of fuel cell electric buses and the related hydrogen refuelling infrastructure in European cities, has launched a virtual knowledge base for fuel cell electric buses in Europe.

The aim of this knowledge centre is to give an overview of data, knowledge and experiences about fuel cell electric buses and hydrogen refuelling infrastructure in Europe. The information on the website mainly targets bus operators and public authorities willing to deploy fuel cell electric buses in their bus fleet.

www.fuelcellbuses.eu

The knowledge base has been developed in close collaboration will all the other FCH-JU funded projects currently deploying fuel cell electric buses in Europe: CHIC, HyTransit and 3Emotion. The website is launched at the occasion of the International Zero Emission Bus Conference which will take place in London this week (30th of November and 1st of December).

Europe is rapidly expanding the demonstration of fuel cell hydrogen buses in regular public transport services in several cities across the continent. Fuel cell electric buses are a type of electric buses. Hydrogen is used to fuel the buses; a fuel cell then transforms the hydrogen into electricity, which is then used to power the bus.

The website is managed by WaterstofNet and will be regularly updated with the latest information on fuel cell electric buses and data from the different buses currently in operation in Europe.

Flip Bamelis, coordinator of the High V.LO-City project and R&D Project Coordinator at Van Hool, said: *'An increasing number of public authorities and bus operators are interested in deploying fuel cell buses. However, until now there was no one-stop shop where precise and complete information about fuel cell electric buses could be found. The virtual knowledge base is bridging this gap by gathering existing knowledge and we hope that anyone who has an interest in fuel cell electric buses will find the information they need on the website.*

The FCH JU Executive Director Bart Biebuyck said: '*We are extremely pleased to see the launch of this new virtual knowledge base on fuel cell electric buses in Europe. The European Public Private Partnership FCH JU is deploying significant resources in order to accelerate the commercialisation of this technology and the projects like CHIC, HighVLO-City, HyTransit and 3Emotion, are increasingly contributing to this major*

objective. To date, 67 buses are being deployed thanks to the FCH JU support, allowing European citizens to enjoy a clean and silent zero-emission public transportation. It is crucial to keep raising awareness on the market-readiness and benefits of fuel cell electric buses. Having this new platform is definitely a big step in that respect.'

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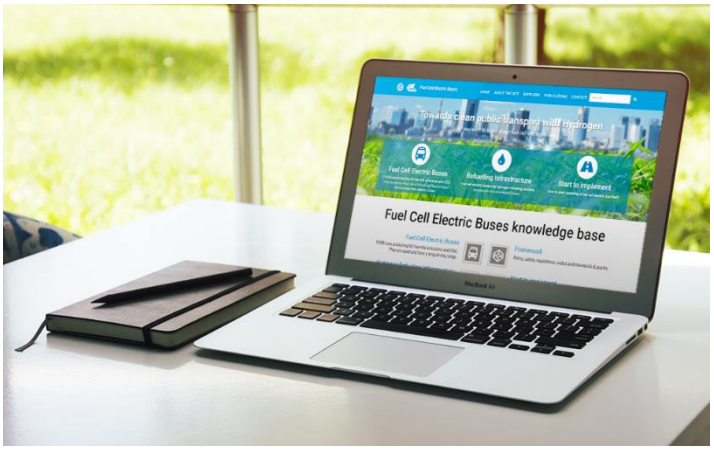

For any inquiry, please contact the project team at secretariat@highvlocity.eu or Valentine Willmann at valentine@hyer.eu / + 32 2 285 4094

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NOTE TO EDITORS

About the High V.LO-City project: cities speeding up the integration of hydrogen buses

The High V.LO-City project, coordinated by the bus manufacturer Van Hool, started in 2012 and will run until the end of 2019. During the course of the project, 14 buses will be operated in 3 locations: Aberdeen, Scotland (4 buses), Antwerp, Belgium (5 buses), San Remo, Italy (5 buses). The 14 fuel cell hydrogen buses will be used as like-to-like replacement of conventional diesel buses and trolley buses. The key project objectives are to increase the energy efficiency of the buses and reduce the cost of ownership, as well as to demonstrate an operational availability of the buses equivalent to diesel (over 90%). Another objective of the project is to contribute to the commercialisation of fuel cell electric buses in Europe.

Since the start of the project, more than 370.000km have already been travelled by the buses since March 2015 and the daily operation of the buses is proving that fuel cell electric buses can be put in operation with the same level of efficiency and flexibility as diesel buses. Different methods of hydrogen production are tested (industrial by product, production from green electricity) and the overall availability of the buses is expected to continue to increase as experience is accumulated by the project partners.

About the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking

The Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCH JU) is a public-private partnership between the European Commission (DG Research and Innovation), Europe's FCH industry (Hydrogen Europe) and research organisations (N.ERGHY), aiming at accelerating the market introduction of fuel cells and hydrogen technologies. It is also a funding agency, supporting R&D and Demonstration projects in transport and energy. So far more than 200 projects have been selected for funding, including High V.LO-City. For more information, please visit www.fch.europa.eu

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