

Press release

Munich/Düsseldorf February 23, 2021

Sustainable public transportation: Pescara to introduce new e-bus system with IMC®500 technology from Kiepe Electric

- **New overhead wire system to link Italian cities of Pescara and Montesilvano on the Adriatic coast with IMC**
- **Consortium of Kiepe Electric and Van Hool to supply six zero-emission 18-meter buses with IMC® technology to Pescara public transportation operators TUA.**
- **The IMC500 buses will also serve destinations without overhead lines**

Munich/Düsseldorf, February 23, 2021 – The new overhead wire system in the Italian city of Pescara will in future charge battery-powered buses equipped with In Motion Charging (IMC®) technology from Kiepe Electric, a subsidiary of Knorr-Bremse AG, the global market leader for braking systems and other systems for rail and commercial vehicles. From mid-2022, a consortium of Kiepe Electric and renowned Belgian bus and commercial vehicle manufacturer Van Hool is to supply six zero-emission 18-meter Exqui.City buses with IMC® technology to Pescara public transportation operators TUA.

According to Alexander Ketterl, Managing Director of Kiepe Electric, Düsseldorf: “In Pescara’s local transportation system, TUA is taking a pioneering step with the introduction of the new IMC system which is already an established part of the street scene in many Italian cities. Our state-of-the-art IMC500 technology with travel on sections of the route with no overhead lines, will contribute to efficient and eco-friendly local transportation in the delightful coastal region of Pescara.”

TUA (Trasporto Unico Abruzzese) has commissioned Colas Rail Italia with forming a consortium to realize this local transportation project in Pescara. This involves not only constructing the overhead line infrastructure but also procuring the vehicles and led to an order for six IMC®500 buses being placed with Kiepe Electric and Van Hool, with an option for three more. Kiepe Electric is to supply the entire high-voltage system with traction equipment for the dual-axle drive, static converters, battery chargers and the batteries, and IMC current collectors, complete with diagnostic systems.

The IMC® buses will operate on an IMC charging road with all-new and attractive infrastructure: The eight-kilometer link between the two coastal cities of Pescara and Montesilvano is designed exclusively for bus traffic and can also be operated as an e-BRT (Bus Rapid Transport) line. As IMC buses recharge their batteries while running on sections with overhead lines, their IMC technology means they can also serve destinations with no overhead lines. Outside the overhead line infrastructure, the buses operate on battery power, giving them greater flexibility in their choice of route. The plan is to use this flexibility to extend the route as far as the Pescara Court of Justice.

IMC technology from Kiepe Electric is well established in the Italian local transportation sector, as this electrical systems specialist is today the leading supplier of equipment for the country’s popular trolleybuses. While the Pescara project team in Düsseldorf and Italy are preparing the ground, the famous seaside resort of Rimini is currently running acceptance tests for its new IMC buses. The vehicles are destined to serve the new Rapid Coast Transport (Trasporto Rapido Costiero – TRC) express line from Rimini to Riccione. Here too, the focus is on sustainable urban mobility: As in Pescara, the new e-BRT line in Rimini involved construction of the overhead line infrastructure and here too, Exqui.City18 buses were ordered with IMC500 from Kiepe Electric.

Caption:

Figure 1: IMC® technology from Kiepe Electric, like this IMC bus in Rimini, is well established in the Italian local transportation sector. | © PM Rimini

DE000KBX1006, Ticker symbol: KBX) is the global market leader for braking systems and other systems for rail and commercial vehicles. Knorr-Bremse's products make a decisive contribution to greater safety and energy efficiency on rail tracks and roads around the world. About 29,000 employees at over 100 sites in more than 30 countries use their competence and motivation to satisfy customers worldwide with products and services. In 2019, Knorr-Bremse's two divisions together generated revenues of EUR 6.9 billion (IFRS). For more than 115 years the company has been the industry innovator, driving innovation in mobility and transportation technologies with an edge in connected system solutions. Knorr-Bremse is one of Germany's most successful industrial companies and profits from the key global megatrends: urbanization, sustainability, digitalization and mobility.

Knorr-Bremse subsidiary **Kiepe Electric**, based in Düsseldorf, Germany, is a globally active supplier of electrical systems to the leading rail vehicle and bus manufacturers. The company offers efficient solutions and ecologically sustainable concepts for low-emission public transportation with eco-friendly electrical equipment for light rail vehicles, metros and regional rail networks as well as for battery, trolley and In Motion Charging (IMC) buses.

Contact:

Alexandra Bufe
Head of Corporate Communications
Tel: +49 (0)89 3547 1402
E-mail: alexandra.bufe@knorr-bremse.com

Knorr-Bremse AG
Moosacher Straße 80
D-80809 München
www.knorr-bremse.com

Julian Ebert
Trade Press, Rail Vehicle Systems
Tel: +49 (0)89 3547 1497
E-mail: julian.ebert@knorr-bremse.com

Knorr-Bremse AG
Moosacher Straße 80
D-80809 München