

Press Release

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Double-articulated electric buses with IMC® technology for Austria

Operators LINZ AG LINIEN recently presented their first 24-meter electric bus. The bus is one of 20 double-articulated e-buses with In Motion Charging (IMC®) technology to be supplied by Kiepe Electric. The buses are to replace the existing trolley bus fleet in Linz and bring an almost 30% increase in capacity to 180 passengers per vehicle. Replacement of the entire fleet is due to be completed by the end of 2019.

With In Motion Charging (IMC), the batteries of trolleybuses are being recharged when the vehicle is back under overhead lines. Eric Haider is Chairman of the Board of LINZ AG: "These innovative vehicles have three special features," he said. "They are the first double-articulated buses – and therefore the longest buses – in Austria. They are 100% all-electric and with their modern interiors and comfort features such as full air-conditioning they are extremely passenger-friendly."

For his part, Peter Pichler, Managing Director of Kiepe Electric Austria, was pleased to report that "Our excellent customer relations, close coordination with all concerned, our in-depth understanding of the aspirations and requirements of our clients and of the challenges they face, have led to shared successes here in Linz and in a recent mass transit project in Vienna." We have also noticed a marked level of interest among our customers in all the additional options that we are now able to offer as a new member of the Knorr-Bremse Group.

LINZ AG opted for a moderate battery output, implemented in conjunction with a cost-effective IMC solution. If requirements should change in the future, Kiepe's modular battery charging system means that a high-performance battery can be retrofitted. In addition, with the newly developed Anti Icing System (AIS) a nozzle on the current collector head sprays the overhead lines with antifreeze in the evenings, reducing the formation of ice on cold winter nights. The buses, manufactured by Van Hool in Belgium, are powered by two centrally located low-maintenance asynchronous motors, developed and produced by TSA (Traktionssysteme Austria GmbH) in collaboration with Kiepe Electric in Austria.

In conjunction with the maintenance agreement that has also been concluded, Kiepe's tried and tested technology will safeguard the high availability of these vehicles. Thanks to its local presence, if the need arises Kiepe Electric Ges. m.b.H. in Vienna can ensure that passenger operations are virtually back to normal within 24 hours. Kiepe has been the first-choice supplier to LINZ AG LINIEN since 1983. The 24-meter IMC vehicle concept signposts the way forward for many other mass transit operators around the world, above all those considering the introduction of electric bus fleets. The concept combines high passenger capacity with virtually unlimited range and permits round-the-clock operation. In October 2017, interested operators can see the Linz model for themselves on the Van Hool booth at the Busworld trade fair in Kortrijk, Belgium.

Caption: LINZ AG LINIEN's EXQUI.CITY 24 T double-articulated bus | © Kiepe Electric

Knorr-Bremse is a leading manufacturer of braking systems and supplier of additional sub-systems for rail and commercial vehicles, with sales totaling approximately EUR 5.5 billion in 2016. Some 25,000 employees develop, manufacture, and service braking, entrance, control, and energy supply systems, HVAC and driver assistance systems, as well as powertrain-related solutions. As a technology leader, through its products the company has been making a decisive contribution to greater safety by road and rail since 1905. Every day, more than one billion people around the world put their trust in systems made by Knorr-Bremse.

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.

Kiepe Electric Ges.m.b.H. Vienna, a subsidiary of Kiepe Electric GmbH, Düsseldorf, is also a supplier of electrical systems for light rail vehicles and regional trains, as well as for electric buses with IMC. In addition, Kiepe Electric Ges.m.b.H., Vienna, develops and manufactures HVAC systems for leading rail vehicle manufacturers in Europe.

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