

Electric Buses in Silesia

Letters of intent on the development of electromobility were signed on 20 February this year by representatives of the Ministry of Development, Ministry of Energy, Polish Development Fund, National Centre for Research and Development, National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, and of local governments from 41 Polish cities and municipalities, including some from the Silesian Voivodeship (i.e. Jaworzno, Katowice, Sosnowiec, Tychy, and Żywiec). On the national scale this is already a declaration to purchase in total 819 electric buses.

Text **ŁUKASZ BORDO**

Electromobility enters cities of Silesia and Zagłębie. The development of electric engines technology allowed to introduce such solutions to bigger vehicles. A 'race' related to the production of electric buses adapted to the public transport has started.

The strategic governmental programme named 'Electromobility' comprises two flagship programmes: e-Bus (electric bus) and e-Car (electric car). Polish Development Fund plays in it an essential role, managing the implementation of work related to the e-Bus programme and supporting the entire programme with various financial instruments. The e-Bus programme is also an opportunity for Polish manufacturers for the development of electric buses. The first such vehicles are already present in the offers of Solaris brand manufacturer from Wielkopolska, of mechanical plant Ursus and the manufacturer of special and utility bodies AMZ-Kutno in cooperation with Ursus. Also the Autosan company from Sanok intends to fight for e-buses.

Last years electric buses were running on streets of Silesian cities, tested by municipal transport enterprises. This year PKM Sosnowiec signed a contract on the delivery of three electric buses and PKM Katowice declares the purchase of 20 e-buses by 2020. Also the cities of Tychy and Żywiec have their investment plans in relation to the zero-emission transport, but in these cases it is not known yet, when tenders for e-buses could be expected.

In this field the PKM Jaworzno is the pioneer in the Silesian Voivodeship. Already for two years they have a Solaris Urbino 12 Electric bus among their vehicles. Last year this company resolved two next tenders for such vehicles and as a result already this

year 22 electric buses will be running on the routes serviced by PKM Jaworzno.

Also KZK GOP have their plans related to electric buses; they declared joining the buses development programme in cooperation with the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR). The NCBR have been carrying out research-development work related to an innovative zero-emission vehicle. On 27 June this year the Assembly of KZK GOP expressed their consent to sign an agreement with the NCBR. Its text includes also the agreement to buy 68 electric buses in the years 2019-2021. The estimated investment value amounts to PLN 142.5 million.

The planned purchase is to be carried out according to a tender procedure under an innovative partnership and is conditioned with a number of additional conditions related inter alia to obtaining a grant for this investment. Under this cooperation the NCBR declare a support in obtaining financing from the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management.

The research work, which should result in a design of a new vehicle, its prototype and – after the approval by the NCBR – a series of test vehicles, is planned till the end of 2019. The stage of vehicle implementation on the market is planned for the next two years – by delivering to public partners, including KZK GOP, vehicles for the operation. ■



Łukasz Bordo | Journalist silesiainfotransport.pl portal

► Streszczenie

Nawiązując do rządowych planów rozwoju elektromobilności, zakładających między innymi wprowadzenie na szeroką skalę do komunikacji publicznej autobusów elektrycznych, autor opisuje, jak z tym zagadnieniem radzą sobie samorządy gminne z terenu województwa śląskiego.

► **Słowa kluczowe:** elektromobilność, inwestycje, e-bus

► Summary

Electric buses in Silesian region

Referring to the governmental plans for electromobility development, assuming among other things the introduction on a large scale of electrical buses to the public transport, the author describes, how municipal local governments from the Silesian Voivodeship cope.

► **Keywords:** electromobility, investments, e-bus