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Open Tour Paris first 100%-electric, hop-on/hop-off, double-decker bus enters service

On Thursday, 5 April, RATP Group President and Chief Executive Catherine Guillouard and Anne Hidalgo, the Mayor of Paris, officially inaugurated the first 100%-electric sightseeing bus for Open Tour Paris, the RATP Group sightseeing subsidiary. With 750,000 passengers per year, Open Tour is the Paris leader in double-decker hop-on/hop-off sightseeing buses. The company has accordingly initiated the conversion of its fleet to 100% electrically powered vehicles.

Open Tour Paris has committed alongside the Paris city authorities and the ADEME environmental agency to more sustainable mobility by reducing its CO₂ emissions. The 12-metre bus can transport up to 75 passengers; its 150 km per day range guarantees up to 250 stops making it possible for passengers to get on and off at their leisure. The entire Open Tour Paris fleet, currently comprising 38 vehicles, will be converted to electrical power by 2025. The company has also been training its drivers for years in ecological driving and parks some of its vehicles in a Paris station to cut down on travel.



“With this first 100%-electric sightseeing bus, RATP Group is clearly committed alongside the Paris city authorities to serve as a key player in the quality of life and quality of air for tourists in the Paris region and for all of its inhabitants. At the same time we will launch the same type of 100% electric buses in London in the weeks to come. This dynamic approach is part and parcel of the RATP Group commitment to energy transition, just like we have been working actively with our Bus2025 plan, in which we have committed to converting all our bus depots in the Paris region to 100% electric and bio gas fleets,” stated RATP Group President and Chief Executive Catherine Guillouard.

“This 100%-electric bus is a strong symbol of the energy transition we are now implementing in Paris. It demonstrates that it is possible to combine sightseeing appeal and economic dynamism with the development of a more breathable city that takes better care of its environment. I salute the resolve

and commitment of RATP in this field. RATP is a major partner in our city for developing clean forms of mobility. I am certain that this approach will inspire many other parties in the tourism sector”, stated Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo.

The Group already operates nearly 1,000 hybrid buses, 75 electric buses and 200 buses using natural gas in several towns and cities in France and internationally.

Open Tour Paris worked with four industrial groups in Europe (UNVI as project manager, bodywork and chassis specialist, Ziehl Abegg for the electric propulsion drive, BMZ for the batteries and SAF for the coordination system) to design this first ever double-decker, open-top electric vehicle. The expertise and know-how of RATP Group were decisive in the integration process.

RATP Group and sightseeing buses



HOP-ON HOP-OFF

RATP Group subsidiary RATP Dev is one of the world’s few public transport operators to boast know-how and experience in double-decker, urban, sightseeing buses. In 2015 RATP Dev set up Extrapolitan, an international alliance that aims to bring together the industry’s best operators to benefit from the expertise of RATP Group, the world’s fifth largest public transport group.

Extrapolitan now operates in 17 cities worldwide: Paris, London, Hong Kong, Berlin, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki, Nice, Marseilles, Athens, Bath, Windsor, Cardiff, Riga, Tallinn, Budapest and Split.

The Extrapolitan alliance plans to deploy 100% double-decker buses on several of its networks, beginning with The Original Tour in London, where conversion of the fleet to electricity began in this spring of 2018.