



Press release

GP JOULE hands over environmentally friendly hydrogen buses to DB Regio Bus subsidiary Autokraft

Final stage of the pioneering eFarm project completed

Reußenköge/Niebüll, 19 May 2021. The two fuel cell buses of the eFarm hydrogen pioneer project were handed over today in Niebüll to their new owner - Autokraft GmbH, a subsidiary of DB Regio Bus Nord. From now on, they will be in regular service in North Friesland. This means that the last phase of the eFarm project initiated by GP JOULE has also been put into practice. The buses are fuelled with climate-neutral hydrogen produced using regional wind power at the two filling stations in Niebüll and Husum that are part of the project. One fuel tank lasts for 400 kilometres. This corresponds to a normal operating day in regular service, so that the buses can be used flexibly on 50 bus connections around Niebüll and Husum.

Role model for regional value creation generated by the energy turnaround.

"Thanks to eFarm, we are the first bus company in Germany to be able to refuel not only with climate-neutral but also regionally produced hydrogen. We are looking forward to gaining experience with fuel cell technology in daily use, because it is our declared goal to help promote alternative drives in Schleswig-Holstein's public transport system," says Daniel Marx, who is responsible for Autokraft GmbH as chairman of the regional management of DB Regio Bus Nord. "With the eFarm project, the district of North Frisia has created a blueprint for sustainable mobility that more and more regions throughout Germany are following," adds District Administrator Florian Lorenzen. "With the handover of the two buses, we are also putting the last stage of the eFarm project into practice. We have shown how the energy and transport turnaround can create new economic systems with regional value creation," sums up Ove Petersen, co-founder and CEO of the GP JOULE Group.

Comfortable, clean and safe

Both two-door low-floor buses of the type "H2.City Gold" are built by the Portuguese manufacturer CaetanoBus. "GP Joule is developing the largest green hydrogen mobility scheme in Germany. We are very proud that Caetano can be a part of this initiative by delivering our H2.City Gold and help to create a greener future in which we want to live in" says Kohei Umeno, Chief Commercial Officer of CaetanoBus. The hydrogen tanks, batteries and fuel cell system from Toyota are placed on the roof of the buses. The fact that the buses are almost silent on the road and that nothing but water vapour comes out of the exhaust is particularly appreciated in the climatic health resort of Niebüll. The safety technology

is also state-of-the-art: In the event of an accident, thanks to hydrogen leakage sensors and crash sensors installed, the vehicle will switch off the hydrogen tank valves.

Pictures



Caption 1: The latest technology and a range of 400 km enable flexible use of the fuel cell buses in Autokraft's route network.



Capion 2: One of the fuel cell buses in front of the production plant in Bosbüll. Here, the hydrogen for the drive is produced from wind power.

Current pictures of the event are available for your download from **20 May 2021, 9 a.m.** under

- <https://www.gp-joule.de/newsroom/pressefotos>
- <https://www.deutschebahn.com/pr-hamburg-de/aktuell/presseinformationen>

About eFarm

The eFarm hydrogen joint project was initiated by GP JOULE in 2017. In the meantime, 20 regional shareholders are involved, including citizens' wind and solar parks as well as municipal utilities. In the course of the project, a local hydrogen infrastructure was created, ranging from production through electrolysis to distribution and fleet use in fuel cell vehicles. The project includes five electrolysis sites near existing wind farms, two hydrogen refuelling stations, two fuel cell buses and thirty fuel cell cars so far. Interest has already been expressed for acquiring another approximately 100 vehicles. The waste heat generated at the electrolyzers is used to heat buildings.

About Autokraft

Autokraft GmbH, headquartered in Hamburg, is a subsidiary of DB Regio AG. With over 900 employees, it is one of the largest bus companies in Schleswig-Holstein. Autokraft has been operating the majority of bus services in the North Frisia district from its locations in Niebüll, Husum,



Garding and Sankt-Peter-Ording since 2019. Around 100 buses are currently in operation.

About CaetanoBus

CaetanoBus, part of Toyota Caetano Portugal and Mitsui & Co, is a bus and chassis manufacturer in Portugal. The company has a consolidated offer in vehicles for cities and airports which is a result of its technical capacity in developing unique, customer-oriented mobility solutions. CaetanoBus is also the manufacturer of COBUS, the world's market leader in airport bus transportation. CaetanoBus has been focusing on electric mobility since 1980.

About GP JOULE

Founded in 2009 based on the belief that a 100% renewable energy supply is feasible, GP JOULE is now a system provider for integrated energy solutions from solar, wind and biomass power as well as being a partner at the supply level for electricity, heat, hydrogen and electric mobility. A pioneer in the area of sectoral cross-linkage, the medium-sized company group has a workforce of over 350 employees at sites in Germany, Europe and North America. GP JOULE is the winner of the 2019 Schleswig-Holstein Business Environment Award.

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