

Press release

UNSW, Ebusco to accelerate development of zero emissions transport

Deurne - Netherlands / Sydney - Australia, 22 June 2020 – UNSW’s agreement with Dutch electric bus manufacturer Ebusco will bolster research and development of electric vehicles in Australia. UNSW Sydney has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with pioneering Dutch electric bus manufacturer Ebusco to further research and development of sustainable transport in Australia.

UNSW President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Jacobs said the partnership reflects UNSW’s commitment to a more sustainable future.

“This new collaboration with Ebusco will help make significant advances in areas such as renewable energy and manufacturing – both areas of research strength at UNSW,” Professor Jacobs said. “We are committed to taking action on climate change, and industry-university partnerships like this are key to making a positive global impact.”

Under the terms of the agreement, UNSW students and research experts will have the opportunity to work with Ebusco engineers on diverse subject areas, such as transport planning, energy storage and advanced and precision manufacturing. Students will have access to scholarship programs, industry placements and internships at Ebusco’s operations in the Netherlands, China and Australia. Students and staff will also have opportunities to work directly with Ebusco engineers on the next generation of the company’s electric bus fleets.

Professor Ian Gibson, Associate Dean (Industry and Innovation) at UNSW Engineering, said the MoU presents an unsurpassed opportunity to advance UNSW research across multiple engineering disciplines.

“This partnership draws on complementary expertise and we hope it will lead to new and more efficient ways of manufacturing electric vehicles in Australia. I am looking forward to seeing the translation of UNSW’s research into commercial outcomes,” Prof. Gibson said.

Simone Pearce, sales manager of Ebusco in Australia, believes the relationship with UNSW is a natural fit. “We were blown away by the breadth and depth of knowledge at UNSW. I have no doubt this partnership will help Ebusco continue to pioneer world leading technology and sustainable transport solutions.”

UNSW and Ebusco hope to work with Transport for NSW to improve health and the environment in our cities. The NSW government announced late last year that it would replace Sydney’s ageing diesel bus fleet with electric vehicles. It is currently calling for expressions of interest for running trials of environmentally friendly zero emission buses.

About Ebusco

Ebusco is dedicated to the development, marketing and sale of fully electric city and regional buses, mainly for the European market. Ebusco is an originally Dutch company based in Deurne, the Netherlands.

Ebusco is a pioneer and a forerunner in the development of electric buses and charging systems and is now able to offer an electric bus that is cheaper than a diesel bus.

The European Union has set stringent objectives for reducing CO2 emissions in the very near future. The Netherlands is the most progressive EU state in this regard. In 2016 the Dutch government signed an agreement with all public transport providers stipulating that no new diesel buses may be sold from 2025 and that from 2030 no diesel buses will be allowed to operate.

Michel van Maanen, CCO and COO of Ebusco; 'Since the company's creation in 2012 we have gained extensive experience by supplying more than 150 buses to 15 European cities and in 2020 more than 200 new Ebusco buses will start operating in Europe'. We see the Australian market, combined with local partnerships, as a logical next step for Ebusco in contributing to a more liveable environment and introducing new technology in combination with the creation of 'future jobs'. With the appointment of Simon, who is a real ambassador of this sustainable philosophy, we are sure to find the right local partnerships with all stakeholders to realise this goal. The cooperation with Australian Bus Corporation is an important example off this."

The goal of Ebusco is to make clean, silent and emission-free public transport available to everyone. Due to the successes it has achieved, Ebusco is growing fast. At present Ebusco employs over 150 people.

About the electric buses

Ebusco supplies 2 types of buses at this moment; the Ebusco 2.2 and the Ebusco 3.0. "The Ebusco 3.0 – a very innovative composite light weight e-bus - is a great opportunity to demonstrate how next generation electric vehicles can provide new transport solutions.

Here in Australia we have the ideal location to demonstrate the potential of this very innovative technology," Simon continued. "In growing cities it's more and more important to embracing technology as it transitions from traditional industries into the environmentally friendly digital economy.

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