

(Two Dutch companies) Ebusco and Rocsys are working together to automate bus depots

Ebusco is a supplier of electric buses and depot chargers, while Rocsys supplies plug-in robots. Together they are working to automate bus depots through robotisation. The innovative robot ensures that the CCS plug of the depot charger is plugged into the bus automatically and 100% correctly.

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The key advantages

“The advantages of automating bus depots are many and varied: automating this process means there is no need for human hands and that has two major benefits. First of all, it saves time (and time is money), but perhaps even more importantly, it eliminates the risk of a bus not being charged in the morning, because someone forgot to plug in the bus or the plug wasn’t inserted properly,” says Peter Bijvelds, CEO of Ebusco.

A key choice is between pantograph charging and plug-in charging

Automation adds to the choices that have to be made when using the bus fleet in a concession. Often it is necessary to decide at an early stage how and where to charge electric buses. Ebusco has a very clear view on this: plug-in charging is the best solution. No expensive and time-consuming infrastructure is needed for plug-in charging; all you have to do is install chargers in the depot.

Ebusco buses are equipped with (cobalt-free) LFP battery technology that makes it possible to drive more than 350 km on a single battery charge. “The only argument we regularly hear in favour of charging via a pantograph is that nobody has to do anything manually. That argument is no longer relevant thanks to this innovative robot,” says Bijvelds. “This combination saves enormously on costs, time and permits compared to pantograph solutions.”

This isn’t something for the future; it can be done now!

“A lot of people think that robots are something we’ll have in the future, but we're proving that they can do the job now. The prototype robot is ready and working. Delivery of the first series of robots will take place in April 2021, after which a demo set-up will be installed at Ebusco in Deurne. A second, larger series is scheduled for July 2021,” says Crijn Bouman, CEO of Rocsys.

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The future

There are plenty more automation developments in the pipeline. The robot is being further developed so that it can serve several buses at the same time. We are also working hard to further standardise communication between the vehicle, the charger, the robot and the higher-level systems. This means we can get the entire charging process ready for self-driving electric vehicles.

Not for publication:

About Ebusco

From its creation in 2012, Ebusco has been 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 front-runner 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. There are now hundreds of Ebusco buses operating on European roads.

About Rocsys

Rocsys was founded in April 2019 with the goal of accelerating the energy transition by automating the charging of electric vehicles. As a leading player in the field of automatic charging, the Dutch company Rocsys sits on standardisation committees around the world. Rocsys robots use soft-drive robotic technology, making them intrinsically safe for use in human and animal environments.

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