



European bus manufacturers agree on a common electronics interface

Stuttgart/Salzgitter,
September 2004

The six leading bus manufacturers in Europe, the NEOMAN Bus Group, Evobus, Irisbus, Scania, VDLBus and Volvo, have agreed on a common interface for reading out bus operating data. This will make it possible to use so-called Fleet Management Systems (FMS) for entire vehicle fleets with vehicles from diverse manufacturers whilst at the same time replacing previous manufacturer-specific island solutions. In future the 25 items of essential operating data can be called up via a common interface. The manufacturers see this agreement as a major breakthrough in terms of open electronic architecture, making for a better integration of supplier systems.

The interface, known as "Bus FMS", is particularly important for vehicle fleets in which vehicles of diverse manufacturers operate since periphery systems which build on the bus electrics can be integrated according to a common standard. This is based on the most widespread international protocol SAE J1939. For the first time it provides the basis for communication with both a common "language" and a uniform data format. This enables the fleet operator to read out and record all the essential data on his vehicles regardless of who they are manufactured by. The data include, for instance, information on engine speed, vehicle speed, brakes and doors. This makes the vehicles more maintenance-friendly and keeps the company's costs down. Further data, however, remain in the hands of the individual vehicle manufacturers, allowing them to realise their own systems.

Parallel to releasing this common interface, NEOMAN is introducing a new electrics structure known as TEPS[®] into all its buses. TEPS[®] is CAN bus-compatible technology, which offers optimised diagnosis capability and a neutral, body manufacturer-friendly interface for conventional or digital body electrics. The idea behind TEPS[®] was to develop an electrics structure which can be used in all NEOMAN models and makes the chassis independent of the body.

The new FMS standard is precisely documented and generally accessible under www.bus-fms-standard.com. Cooperation between the six manufacturers will extend to further coordinating and developing the "FMS Bus".

NEOMAN Bus GmbH
Press and Public Relations (BKO)

NEOMAN Bus is the bus division of the MAN Nutzfahrzeuge Group. The company develops, produces and markets buses of the brands MAN and NEOPLAN. In fiscal year 2003 the company, with a workforce of 8,000, sold some 6,300 buses and chassis and reported a turnover of € 1.2 billion.

NEOMAN Bus GmbH
Press and Public Relations (BKO)
Vaihinger Str. 118-122
D-70567 Stuttgart

Please direct any questions to:
Hans-Joachim Pilz
Hans-Joachim.Pilz@neoman.de
Tel.: +49/711/7835-218

Thorsten Wagner
Thorsten.Wagner@neoman.de
Tel.: +49/711/7835-365

www.neoman.de

