

# Press Release

## **Daimler Buses teams up with FEV to launch the first hydrogen-powered Setra demonstrator vehicle, the “H<sub>2</sub> Coach”**

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**Aachen, February 2026 – FEV, a globally recognized engineering service provider has teamed up with Daimler Buses to create the first coach with a hydrogen fuel cell drive system. The starting point for the “H<sub>2</sub> Coach” technology demonstrator, which is intended for testing purposes, was a conventional Setra coach. The development marks an important step toward locally emission-free long-distance travel: short refueling times, ranges of at least 800 kilometers per tank filling, and quiet operation underscore its practicality.**

Daimler Buses and FEV jointly carried out the complete system transformation from diesel drive to fuel cell electric vehicle. After creating the overall vehicle concept, FEV took over the mechanical and E/E integration. One distinguishing feature is that the individual components deployed – including fuel cells, high-voltage components (such as batteries and electric motors), H<sub>2</sub> tank assemblies, control units including software – originate from different technology platforms from Daimler Buses and Daimler

Truck. FEV integrated the systems into a functional powertrain in the overall vehicle.

An important factor in the development process was safety. Measures were developed for various crash load cases as well as for functional, high-voltage, and hydrogen safety.

“The 'H<sub>2</sub> Coach' impressively demonstrates how complex subsystems can be integrated into a testable, safe complete vehicle when vehicle, powertrain, and E/E expertise come from a single source,” said Klaus Wolff, Vice President Project Management at FEV. “With our one-stop-shop approach, we quickly and efficiently delivered the desired customized solution to our customer – from concept to approval.”

After successful approval by German technical inspection authority TÜV and passing electromagnetic compatibility tests, FEV handed over the vehicle to Daimler Buses in the summer of 2025 after approximately two years of joint project work.

**Key performance indicators “H<sub>2</sub> Coach”:**

- Cellcentric fuel cell unit with 300 kW electrical output
- Two H<sub>2</sub> tanks with a total capacity of 46 kg (101 lbs)
- Central motor with 320 kW continuous output and 400 kW maximum output
- Integrated battery system for intermediate and peak load storage

“A key success factor in recent months has been the open, trusting cooperation with Daimler Buses,” said Wolff, summarizing the successful project.

## Footage



**Caption:** FEV and Daimler Buses have jointly developed the “H<sub>2</sub> Coach”, the first coach with a hydrogen-based fuel cell drive system. Source: Daimler Buses

## About FEV

### **FEV has always pushed the limits.**

FEV is a globally leading engineering provider in the automotive industry and internationally recognized leader of innovation across different sectors and industries. Professor Franz Pischinger laid the foundations by combining his background in academia and engineering with a great vision for continual progress. The company has supplied solutions and strategy consulting to the world's largest automotive OEMs and has supported customers through the entire transportation and mobility ecosystem.

### **As the world continues to evolve, so does FEV.**

That's why FEV is unleashing its technological and strategic expertise into other areas, applying its forward thinking to the aerospace and energy sectors. Thanks to its software and system expertise, the company also leads the way making intelligent solutions available to everyone. FEV brings together the brightest minds from different backgrounds and specialties to find new solutions for both current and future challenges.

**But FEV won't stop there.**

Looking ahead, FEV continues to push the limits of innovation. With its highly qualified 6,100 employees at more than 45 locations globally, FEV imagines solutions that don't just meet today's needs but tomorrow's. Ultimately, FEV keeps evolving – to a better, cleaner future built on sustainable mobility, energy and software that drives everything. For the company's partners, its people and the world. [#FeelEVolution](#)