



NEWS

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MTA TO SPOTLIGHT HIGH TECH AT GREATER L.A. VENDOR FAIR

The MTA will showcase the latest in transportation technology at the Greater Los Angeles Vendor Fair, Tuesday, April 18, at the Los Angeles Convention Center. The fair, co-sponsored by the MTA, the City and the County of Los Angeles, is the largest public agency trade fair in California.

The fair's 250 exhibitors include several from developing technologies with applications for the transportation field. These include the Northrop Grumman Corporation's Advanced Technology Transit Bus, nicknamed the "Stealth" because of the lightweight composites used in its design, and zero emission fuel cell technology.

"At the turn of the 20th century, we replaced the horse with the internal combustion engine and now at the turn of the 21st century, we hope to replace the internal combustion engine with fuel cells," said MTA Chairman and Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich. "We're excited about the potential that this and other new technologies represent for public transportation."

Another transit vehicle of the future, the L.A. Standard Rail Car, will be displayed by Seimens-Duewag. The cars will be built in a plant due to open next month in Carson for use on the Metro Blue Line, the Metro Green Line, which opens later this summer, and the Pasadena Blue Line, scheduled to open in 2002.

The builder of the Metro Green Line, O'Brien-Kreitzberg, will give a presentation on the newest addition to MTA's Metro Rail system, which runs down the median of the Glenn Anderson Freeway for 16.5 miles, and then turns south for 3.5 miles along its own elevated guideway.

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GREEN LINE CARS

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"This is an opportunity to honor and thank the mayors, city council members and community leaders of the cities along the Metro Green Line alignment," said Franklin E. White, MTA's chief executive officer. "Their support and cooperation during more than 10 years of planning and construction helped to establish a firm foundation for the success of the Green Line."

Manufactured by Sumitomo Corporation of America, the 15 new cars are identical to the Metro Blue Line cars and will have the same striping. The cars measure 87 feet, weigh 98,000 pounds and have 76 seats. The passenger capacity with standees is 230.

The cars are equipped with intercom and public address systems that allow two-way communications between passengers and the operator. Passengers can use the intercom during emergencies just by pushing a button.

The Metro Green Line is 20 miles long with 14 stations. It will travel east to west serving several communities from Norwalk to Redondo Beach. Metro Green Line passengers may connect to the Blue Line at the Imperial/Wilmington station, which then connects them to the Red Line at 7th and Flower in downtown Los Angeles, and to the Metrolink system at Union Station. The line is scheduled to open this summer.

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