

Bus Order Status Report

MTA Adds 22 New CNG Buses, 22 Converted Buses in September



FACTS ABOUT THE FLEET

- * MTA to buy 2,095 new buses by 2004.
- * MTA has world's largest CNG fleet -- 694 buses.
- * MTA to buy 438 low-floor CNG buses.
- * 201 of 333 alcohol-fueled buses converted to clean diesel.

(September 14) The MTA -- operator of the world's largest CNG bus fleet -- added 22 new Neoplan CNG buses into revenue service as of Sept. 1. The agency also returned 22 newly converted clean diesel buses to active service.

Of the 2,095 new buses the MTA plans to purchase through 2004, a total of 457 will be delivered by the end of September. This fiscal year, the Vehicle Acquisition and Technical Support Department plans to turn over 450 new coaches and 180 converted buses to Transit Operations.

Here's a status report on current orders for the Metro Bus fleet:

Neoplan. The MTA has accepted all 400 CNG buses purchased under a 1997 contract with Neoplan. The MTA is working with the company to resolve performance and reliability problems with some of the new coaches. The agency also is looking at ways to improve the operating range of the CNG buses.

Of the 400 new Neoplan buses, 203 were delivered to Division 10, 100 to Division 3 and 97 to Division 18.

Detroit Diesel. The latest figures provided by MTA Procurement indicate that Detroit Diesel had converted 201 of the original 333 ethanol/methanol buses to clean diesel. Only 10 alcohol-fueled buses remain operational.

New Flyer. The MTA has received the first three CNG buses of a 223-bus order from New Flyer and will put the buses into revenue service shortly.

Inventory and supply problems have delayed production of the order by 30 to 60 days. The company will be assessed damages for every bus not delivered by Dec. 31, 1999. The MTA also has exercised an option to buy 223 additional low-floor CNG buses from New Flyer for delivery beginning next summer.

NABI. In a separate order, NABI said it is



experiencing 30- to 60-day delays in production of 215 low-floor CNG buses. The company now plans to begin delivery of the first buses of this order in late January or early February, 2000.

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