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## **MTA Board Approves Purchase of 70 Additional High-capacity 45- Foot High-tech Buses**

Taking advantage of an option to purchase more high capacity buses, the MTA Board of Directors today approved the acquisition of 70 additional 45-foot "Compo-Bus" coaches.

Powered by compressed natural gas, the low-floor "Compo-Bus" will be five feet longer than current MTA coaches and will seat 46 passengers, 16 percent more seats than the traditional 40-foot buses now in operation.

The approval of the option to buy an additional 70 buses will bring to total 100 45-foot "Compo-Bus" coaches. The Board last year approved the first order of 30 new 45-foot buses, which are expected to begin arriving this summer.

Each bus is priced at \$373,156 and employs some of the technology developed by MTA in its Advanced Technology Transit Bus program, including a shell constructed of lighter composite materials. Hence the name "Compo-Bus." The composite material used primarily is fiberglass with a balsa core construction method similar to that found in the marine industry.

The "Compo-Bus" will be lighter than a conventional 45-foot steel-framed bus, resulting in better fuel economy and reduced brake wear. Other benefits of using composite material include simplicity of repair and absolute resistance to corrosion.

North American Bus Industries (NABI) in Anniston, Alabama will manufacture the "CompoBUS." The total contract price for the additional 70 buses plus spare parts and diagnostic equipment is \$28,679,137.

**MTA-007**

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