Press Release
MAN Truck & Bus

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Convincing on every route: MAN Lion's City E LE is international "Bus of the Year 2027"

- **Battery-electric MAN low-entry bus wins over international jury of experts with its well-thought-out driver's workplace, modern design and outstanding smooth running**
- **The MAN bus is ideally tailored to the demands of intercity services**
- **Award presented at a gala during the "IBE Intermobility Future Ways" trade fair in Rimini**

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Seven buses, one challenging week in Veszprém near Lake Balaton, around 300 kilometres every day through Hungary's villages and hills, and in the end a clear winner: the MAN Lion's City 12 E LE Class II has won the Bus Euro Test and is "Bus of the Year 2027 Intercity". For the first time in the history of the test, the international "Bus and Coach of the Year" jury had organised its comparison as a dedicated "Intercity Edition" for intercity buses. With seven vehicles, a record number took part.

"Of course, our Lion's City 12 E LE Class II had to be there. It masters the demands of modern, fully electric intercity services with flying colours and impresses operators, drivers and passengers alike," says Barbaros Oktay, Head of Bus at MAN Truck & Bus. After an intensive test week with braking and acceleration measurements, vehicle presentations and numerous test drives, the jury had no doubts: the Lion's City 12 E LE Class II is the new "Bus of the Year 2027 Intercity". The 22 European specialist journalists were particularly impressed by the vehicle's modern exterior design and its bright, ergonomically designed interior. "The driver's workplace is also impressive, with the dashboard and steering wheel forming a harmonious unit. In addition, all controls are logically arranged and always easy for the driver to reach," says jury president Gianluca Ventura.

MAN Truck & Bus is one of Europe's leading commercial vehicle manufacturers and providers of transport solutions with an annual sales revenue of around 14.1 billion euros (2025). The company's product portfolio includes trucks, buses and coaches with diesel and zero-emission drives, vans, diesel and gas engines along with services related to passenger and cargo transport. MAN Truck & Bus is a company of TRATON GROUP and employs some 32,000 people worldwide.

Overall package of safety, comfort and efficiency impresses jury

The standard equipment, including the MAN OptiView digital mirror replacement system, innovative driver assistance systems and a modern CO_2 air conditioning system with heat pump, also played a major part in the final decision. In addition, the MAN Lion's City 12 E LE ran exceptionally smoothly and quietly during the test drives, despite strong winds.

The award was presented at a gala during the "IBE Intermobility Future Ways" trade fair, which takes place from 24 to 26 November in Rimini, Italy. Gianluca Ventura presented it to Barbaros Oktay. The intercity bus is also attracting a great deal of attention at the MAN Truck & Bus stand at the trade fair, which focuses on topics such as e-mobility, alternative powertrains and autonomous driving.

Four decades of "Bus of the Year", another success for MAN

The "Bus of the Year" award, which has been presented for four decades, is regarded as the most important international prize in the bus industry. "We are incredibly proud of the outstanding work of the entire MAN team that brought our intercity bus to market. It is an important building block in the MAN eMobility strategy and impressively demonstrates that range, safety and passenger comfort are not a contradiction in the electric age," says Oktay. This interplay is exactly what convinced the jury, which covered around 300 kilometres of Hungarian intercity routes every day: from larger towns through small villages to hilly terrain. "Our MAN Lion's City 12 E LE Class II was optimised for precisely this kind of operation, and here it was able to play to its strengths to the full," says Oktay. In addition to acceleration, braking and handling, the jury also assessed the vehicles' noise emissions, comfort and safety.

Electric across the countryside with the MAN Lion's City 12 E LE Class II

The MAN Lion's City 12 E LE Class II celebrated its world premiere at Busworld in Brussels in autumn 2025. With a maximum output of 240 kW and five battery packs with a total capacity of 445 kWh, it is perfectly designed for intercity operation. Another key factor is its approval to the stricter UN ECE R 66.02 standard, with increased rollover strength, seat belts and additional emergency exits, including an arrangement of emergency exit hatches in the floor that is unique in the eBus segment.

On longer routes, comfort plays an important role alongside safety. Thanks to the special low-entry design and the optimised floor layout, passengers enjoy a high level of seating comfort. The intercity bus has 39 seats and 20 standing places, a multi-purpose area for wheelchairs and prams, and seats at the rear that all face the direction of travel.

Other highlights of the Lion's City 12 E LE Class II, which was honoured at the Bus Euro Test 2026, include the modern digital cockpit and advanced driver assistance systems for even greater safety. There is also the new generation of MAN batteries with innovative NMC battery technology. The MAN BatteryPacks are produced in large series at MAN's own battery factory in Nuremberg and offer numerous advantages over previous battery technology, such as higher energy density, lower weight and optimised safety systems. "The Bus Euro Test has once again given us the opportunity to show how powerful, efficient and safe our low-entry electric bus is on European intercity routes," says Heinz Kiess, Head of Product Marketing Bus.

From city bus to coach: part of a complete eBus family

The appearance in Hungary was another building block in the MAN eMobility strategy. Almost 4,000 MAN eBuses are already in service across Europe. With the Lion's City E (city), the Lion's City 12 E LE (intercity) and the Lion's Coach E (coach), MAN now offers a complete eBus family for every application. To meet steadily growing demand, MAN started series production of the Lion's City E at its plant in Ankara, Turkey, at the beginning of 2026, as its third global eBus production site alongside Starachowice in Poland and Olifantsfontein in South Africa.

About the "Bus of the Year" award

The jury of the "Bus and Coach of the Year" award is an independent organisation of specialist journalists from 22 European countries, founded in 1984. In alternating years, they honour different types of bus with the titles "Bus of the Year" and "Coach of the Year". The focus is on the practicality and concept of the vehicles, which manufacturers provide for the comparative test. With the current award for the Lion's City 12 E LE Class II, MAN Truck & Bus has now received the award 13 times for its bus brands

MAN and NEOPLAN: six times as “Coach of the Year” (2022, 2020, 2006, 2004, 2000, 1994) and seven times as “Bus of the Year” (2027, 2023, 2015, 2005, 1999, 1995, 1990).