



Automation: MAN is working consistently on driverless buses

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- **MAN is pushing ahead with the automation of its buses – with the aim of playing a key role in shaping the urban bus mobility of the future**
- **The company plans to launch a fully automated city bus in 2030**
- **Commitment as a partner in forward-looking projects to gain experience and test new technologies**
- **As part of the MINGA research project, an electric bus is being automated and tested in real-world conditions**

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MAN Truck & Bus has been working on driverless buses for years with the aim of playing a key role in shaping the future of urban bus mobility and offering public transport companies emission-free, connected and automated buses. A fully automated MAN vehicle is scheduled to be launched on the market in 2030. To gain experience and harness innovative technologies, MAN is focusing on collaborations with technology leaders and pilot projects. These include the MINGA research project. As part of this project, an electric bus is being automated and tested in real-life conditions. Automated driving functions have also already been tested in the @City initiative together with 14 partners, and MAN is working on the BeIntelli 'explanatory bus' to bring an intelligent transport system with automated vehicles to life.

All these measures also serve to make a significant contribution to improving the quality of life for many people. Buses are the most widely used form of public transport in the EU, and a well-developed public transport system is the basis for green cities and regions. However, this is increasingly being countered by a glaring shortage of drivers. "Autonomous buses could help to address this issue and further improve connections in cities, conurbations

MAN Truck & Bus is one of Europe's leading commercial vehicle manufacturers and providers of transport solutions with an annual sales revenue of around 13.7 billion euros (2024). The company's product portfolio includes trucks and buses/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 approx. 33,000 people worldwide.



and rural areas,” says Michael Roth, Head of Product Strategy Bus at MAN Truck & Bus.

MINGA brings automated MAN Lion’s City E to Munich’s streets

Since 2023, MAN has been part of the MINGA research project (Munich’s automated local transport with ride pooling, solo buses and bus platoons), which is supported by around a dozen partners from administration, research and industry. As the commercial vehicle partner of the operating company MVG and its parent company Stadtwerke München (SWM), MAN is providing an automated and fully electric Lion’s City E equipped with an Automated Driving System (ADS). Pilot operations are scheduled to start in 2026, when the bus will be tested in real-life conditions. A safety driver will be on board. “For us, key parts of the MINGA project are the development of the complex interface between the vehicle and the ADS and the integration of the systems into our electronic architecture,” says Roth. The new electronic platform introduced in the 2024 model year facilitates this integration.

MINGA builds on earlier projects such as @CITY (‘Automated Cars and Intelligent Traffic in the City’). This BMWK-funded project focused on approaching bus stops – one of the most bus-specific driving manoeuvres. Together with 14 partners, MAN spent four years developing automated driving functions and demonstrated the results at the Aldenhoven Testing Centre in 2022.

BeIntelli ‘explanatory bus’ brings autonomous driving to life

Another project is ‘BeIntelli,’ which is being implemented in collaboration with the DAI Laboratory at TU Berlin and IAV GmbH Ingenieurgesellschaft Auto und Verkehr. The aim is to bring an intelligent transport system with automated vehicles to life. An automated MAN electric bus equipped with an Automated Driving System (ADS) from ZEKI | Centre for Experiential AI and Digitalisation is currently undergoing test operations in Berlin city centre with safety drivers. The test area extends from the Brandenburg Gate to Adenauerplatz and is equipped with state-of-the-art sensor technology and digital infrastructure. The so-called ‘explanatory bus’ has 60 sensors (including cameras, radar and 3D lidar) as well as screens and other communication components so that driving skills, decisions and technologies



can be visualised and explained to passengers. MAN's focus in the project is on actuator technology – in particular electric steering – and the integration of ADS hardware and software into the vehicles.

Goal: Fully automated MAN city bus from 2030

The projects provide MAN experts with valuable insights for future development. “The MINGA research project in particular is a significant step for us in terms of proving the concept on the road,” says Michael Roth. Once the concept phase is complete, field trials with customers are set to begin. Transport companies are showing great interest in autonomous buses. MAN therefore wants to test vehicles in various markets and application scenarios. The development of a fully automated vehicle (SAE Level 4) places special demands on its safety technology. All safety-relevant systems – from ADS to brakes and steering to communication – must be redundantly secured. “Once we have achieved this, we will be able to drive in defined operating areas without safety drivers,” says Roth.

During the field trials, the technology and systems will be further improved and tailored to the needs of customers and passengers. MAN is pursuing a holistic approach: in addition to the driving functions, the entire ecosystem for automated bus mobility is being taken into account. The goal is to launch a fully automated vehicle on the market by 2030 – for urban mobility that is emission-free, connected and automated.