

HITACHI

Hitachi ZeroCarbon

First Bus and FirstGroup

Enabling sustainable bus transport across UK cities.



Our impact at a glance:

148

electric buses launched in flagship deployment at Glasgow's Caledonia depot.

600+

buses now benefitting from our managed services.

1000

batteries to be acquired through a joint £10 million cash investment.

Reimagining mass urban transport

First Bus is one of the UK's largest bus operators with a fleet of more than 4,500 buses, serving two-thirds of the UK's largest conurbations. Its parent company, FirstGroup, approached us to reimagine the delivery of mass urban transport, with a focus on sustainability and building a clean environment.

After an initial successful deployment of **148 electric buses at First Bus' Caledonia depot in Glasgow**, in which we provided managed services for its EV battery assets and EV charging, we agreed to expand our services to cover more than **600 buses** across eleven new depots. This was accompanied by a **joint cash commitment of £10M** to support the acquisition of 1000 batteries.



Deploying ZeroCarbon Fleet

Across all ten depots, we have deployed our ZeroCarbon fleet solution to closely manage each bus' battery health, maintain its optimal performance throughout its contact life, and specify ideal replacement times.

We provide telematics on each bus and electric charging point to share live status information, enabling remote charging and insight into which vehicles are connected to which chargers, and bus charging durations.

ZeroCarbon Fleet also ensures that power is used in the most efficient way, minimizing the draw down from the

national grid at peak times, and balancing electricity costs. It ensures that each vehicle is fully charged, and the bus interiors are preheated, ready for drivers and customers from the moment the vehicles leave the depot.

We are also collaborating with First Bus to deliver zero carbon charging hubs at their depots for other business fleet users, enabling the use of EV chargers when they are not in use during the day, delivering new revenue streams for the bus operator.

Together, we are providing world-leading battery charging and management services powered by innovative electric batteries.



Driving business impact

We are helping First Bus to operate a zero carbon bus fleet by 2035. Our managed service program delivers a low risk, high quality, and low cost transformation solution.



Managed risk and delivery of the decarbonization program; we offer a single point of contact for issue identification, triage, and resolution



One contracting entity through the EV transition; we offer operational management, contract management, issue management and resolution ownership



Procurement savings; our larger deals with bus OEMs unlock greater commercial buying power and influence



Financing savings; we can facilitate access to lower cost capital and a wide range of commercial offerings



Technology and geographic service interoperability; we provide a fully integrated solution suite covering all software and hardware requirements



Data and machine-learning powered optimization; our solution offers a 'single pane of glass' view of the business



New revenue generation opportunities; secured through the utilization of zero carbon sources of energy, static battery storage and 2nd party charging

“The pioneering alliance with Hitachi will allow us to continue the electrification of our fleet and depots with increased efficiency and unlike other possible arrangements, we will retain much of the residual value in the batteries.”

Graham Sutherland,
CEO, FirstGroup