

Nov. 14, 2014 - Opportunity charging with PVI's WATT system

An electrical bus with 'opportunity charging' and unlimited range is being tested at Nice Cote d'Azur airport since last 17 October. The vehicle is equipped with the innovative PVI's WATT system. This is an ultra-fast charging system that supplies the bus on its journey. At each stop, during the passenger exchange time (approximately 20 seconds) a robotic arm on the bus roof automatically hooks up to an energy accumulator totem mounted on the urban furniture and powered by the existing electrical grid. Once this is done, the bus battery will allow it to travel up to 800 meters, making it possible to reach the next stop where it will recharge again. The WATT System enables the complete elimination of fine particles and prevents the emission of more than 43 tonnes of CO2 just during the trial period on a line such as that at Nice Cote d'Azur airport. Another advantage of this system is that it requires no dedicated lanes, catenary, or electrical sub-station, nor heavy roadworks. The project is developed and patented by the French PVI (Power Vehicle Innovation) and supported by Nice Cote d'Azur's airport passenger transport operator Transdev. It's funded by the ADEME, the French Environment and Energy Management Agency.

