

PRESS RELEASE

15 March 2023

Ricardo delivers hydrogen safety training to Brighton & Hove Buses and Metrobus

Ricardo is applying its world-leading expertise in chemical training to enable Brighton & Hove Buses and Metrobus to implement innovative hydrogen technology safely in support of corporate and national decarbonisation goals

Ricardo, a global strategic environmental and engineering consulting company, has successfully delivered hydrogen awareness, safety and incident response training to employees at Brighton & Hove Buses and Metrobus to support their fleet of hydrogen powered buses.

During 2023, Brighton & Hove Buses and Metrobus will have in their operation 20 hydrogen fuel cell buses on the Metrobus Fastway route 10 serving Crawley, London Gatwick Airport and Horley in the UK. The single-decker fuel cell buses are gap funded with money from JIVE (Joint Initiative for Hydrogen Vehicles across Europe): a project administered by the Clean Hydrogen Partnership (former Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking) under the European Union Horizon 2020 framework programme for research and innovation, plus investment from Gatwick Airport. Brighton & Hove Buses and Metrobus are part of JIVE that will deploy nearly 300 fuel cell buses in 22 European cities by the early 2020s – the largest deployment in Europe to date.

Thanks to the proven global reputation of its National Chemical Emergency Centre (NCEC), Ricardo was appointed by Brighton & Hove Buses and Metrobus to deliver expert, accredited training on awareness, safety and incident response in relation to hydrogen and fuel cells to operational staff both virtually and in person at bus depots across West Sussex. This training will enable key members of staff to carry out operations supporting hydrogen infrastructure safely but also have the best possible preparation to resolve a real incident safely and efficiently. As a consequence of the success and efficacy of the training, Ricardo is now being recommended by Brighton & Hove Buses and Metrobus to the Joint Initiative for Hydrogen Vehicles across Europe (JIVE) with a recommendation that training is made mandatory under the initiative.

Rachel White, Global President Clean Energy and Environmental Solutions at Ricardo said: “The transport sector has a significant role to play not only in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and decarbonisation, but also using technological innovation to help improve air quality and public health. Hydrogen can help organisations and countries achieve a low carbon future, and deliver economic growth and green jobs, but it is important to implement this emerging technology safely, and Ricardo has a proven track record supporting clients across the hydrogen value chain. Ricardo’s National Chemical Emergency Centre is internationally renowned for its chemical safety support and emergency response services and has been the trusted partner of the world’s leading chemical companies for nearly 50 years. We are honoured that Brighton & Hove Buses and Metrobus entrusted us to help keep their teams safe which is helping to shape a cleaner, safer world.”

Ed Wills, Managing Director of Brighton & Hove Buses commented: “To support our ambition of reducing our carbon footprint and decarbonising our operations, then hydrogen is going to be critical to our success. Through the training with Ricardo’s team of chemical experts, we now have a detailed understanding and the confidence to safely manage the use of hydrogen within our operations. We’re excited that this hydrogen training will support us in the decarbonisation of the 60 million passenger journeys we deliver each year.”

NCEC is a global centre of excellence for emergency response and chemical safety, with half a century of experience in the theoretical, technical and operational knowledge involved in the management of hazmat incidents. NCEC works with international public and private sector organisations including 50 percent of the top 100 chemical manufacturers globally, all of which face a range of complex hazmat risk and compliance challenges. Each year, the emergency response team manages more than 4,000 incidents and receives over 8,000 calls.

This project is the latest example of Ricardo furthering the safe and sustainable adoption of hydrogen technology in Sussex. On 13 February 2023, Ricardo announced it has developed the hydrogen strategy for Greater Brighton, with the intention of encouraging inward investment in this green technology on the south coast of England.

Ends

About Ricardo

Ricardo plc is a global strategic, environmental, and engineering consulting company, listed on the London Stock Exchange. With over 100 years of engineering excellence and close to 3,000 employees in more than 20 countries, we provide exceptional levels of expertise in delivering innovative cross-sector sustainable outcomes to support energy transition and scarce resources, environmental services together with safe and smart mobility. Our global team of consultants, environmental specialists, engineers and scientists support our customers to solve the most complex and dynamic challenges to help achieve a safe and sustainable world. Visit www.ricardo.com

Media contacts:

Kathryn Bellamy
Group Senior Communications Manager
Ricardo plc
Email: kathryn.bellamy@ricardo.com
Telephone: +44(0)7921 941824