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- MCI Leads Alberta's First Zero-Emission Coach Demonstration
 - Think Small
 - Doing Things Backwards
 - Brexit, Politics and Northern Ireland



MCI Leads Alberta's First Zero-Emission Motorcoach Demonstration



Photos courtesy of MCI

In March MCI and Ebus successfully demonstrated MCI's battery-electric J4500 CHARGE™ coach in Alberta. This was the first time that a zero-emission motorcoach was on the road in Alberta. It was also the first time that this coach was used for employee site transportation.

In March, MCI and Ebus (a division of the Pacific Western Group of Companies) successfully demonstrated MCI's battery-electric J4500 CHARGE™ in Alberta. The coach was shown in Calgary and Fort Murray, leveraging zero-emission vehicle technology from New Flyer and delivering range up to 200 miles on a single charge.

Diversified Transportation, in partnership with Motor Coach Industries (MCI), a subsidiary of NFI Group Inc. (NFI), and Fort McMurray First Nation Group of Companies, demonstrated a 100 percent battery-

electric motorcoach in varying settings in the Wood Buffalo region from March 2 through March 14, 2021.

This was the first time a zero-emissions motorcoach – a 45-foot, battery-electric MCI J4500 CHARGE™ – was on the road in Alberta, and the first time in Canada that it was utilized for employee site transportation.

The 56-passenger MCI J4500 CHARGE™ leverages electric vehicle technology from New Flyer, another NFI subsidiary, and is equipped with 544 kWh of heavy-duty

lithium ion batteries, delivering a range of up to 200 miles on a single charge.

Some of the features of the MCI J4500 CHARGE™ include:

- 72 miles per hour, designed for highway applications
- Average range of 200 miles
- Charges to full in under four hours
- Regenerative braking using kinetic energy to recharge the battery system, making for highly efficient driving stop-start traffic conditions

Diversified Transportation has been providing safe and sustainable employee transportation services to oil, gas, energy and construction companies in Northern Alberta since 1964. With facilities in both Edmonton and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Diversified carries approximately five million passengers per year via their fleet of modern highway motorcoaches, site service vehicles, and shuttles - all uniquely equipped to handle the extreme northern weather conditions.

"Diversified Transportation is excited to partner with MCI to provide our customers and passengers with the opportunity to experience the energy of a 100 percent electric, zero-emissions motorcoach. Compared to cars, trains and airplanes, motorcoach travel is the most sustainable form of passenger transportation and with the introduction of a 100 percent battery-electric option we can further reduce our carbon footprint," said Tim Lindsay, vice president of Diversified Transportation.

The MCI team, and those across the entire NFI Group family, remains committed to sustainable mobility and showcasing this technology in collaboration with our customers. Our zero-emissions J4500 CHARGE™ motorcoach performed well by delivering clean, safe, quiet transportation powered with battery-electric technology. Together with our sister brands, NFI offers the widest range of zero-emissions buses and coaches in North America, and provides leading infrastructure support through New Flyer Infrastructure Solutions," said Brent Maitland, MCI's vice president of private sector sales and marketing.

Following its appearance in Fort McMurray, the J4500 was moved to Calgary for a similar appearance on March 19. The bus arrived in Calgary from Fort McMurray, Alberta, where it was demoed from March 2 through March 14, 2021 with Ebus' sister company, Diversified Transportation.

The Ebus story has been one of expansion and growth from the beginning. Ebus was conceived in 2011 as an economical option to the luxury Red Arrow brand, which has been serving Alberta for more than 40 years. Ebus is an affordable travel option while also



While the componentry of the J4500 CHARGE™ is all-electric, the basic body and interior remains typical MCI appearance and quality. The coach seats 56 passengers and provides the same high quality interior and passenger options found on the diesel coaches.



The J4500 CHARGE™ provides speeds of up to 72 miles per hour and has a range of 200 miles on a single charge. Other features include regenerative braking to recharge the battery system while braking and the ability to fully recharge the coach in four hours.

providing the benefits that passengers are looking for when they travel:

- Safety – with highly experienced drivers and well-maintained coaches
- Customer Service – friendly, professional staff, easy check-in and well-appointed buses
- Comfort - on-board washrooms and comfortable seats with plenty of legroom
- Sustainability – one Ebus can potentially take 50 cars off the road each trip, making bus travel green travel
- Productivity – complimentary on-board WiFi and power outlets so travel time

can be spent connecting, for work or with friends and family

Ebus and Red Arrow are divisions owned and operated under the Pacific Western Group of Companies, the largest privately-owned people transportation company in Canada. The Core Value of Customer Service is exemplified while onboard their coaches, ensuring the passenger experience is of the highest standard. Getting the passengers Safely Home is the promise they make to their customers and that commitment to safety lies at the heart of everything that they do.

The coach was shown in Fort McMurray from March 2 through 14 and in Calgary on March 19. Involved with the demo were Ebus and Red Arrow, divisions of the Pacific Western Group of Companies. Also involved was Diversified Transportation Ltd., the leading industrial transportation company in North America.



Diversified Transportation: Diversified Transportation Ltd. is the leading industrial employee transportation company in North America, providing safe and reliable services to oil, gas, energy and construction companies in Northern Alberta. With facilities in both Edmonton and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Diversified carries approximately five million passengers per year via their fleet of modern highway motorcoaches, site service vehicles and shuttles - all uniquely equipped to handle the extreme northern weather conditions.

Diversified transports workers to and from worksites, using optimized routing systems designed with environmental sustainability in mind. Diversified is part of the Pacific Western Group of Companies, the largest privately-owned people transportation company in Canada. As an operator and integrator of mobility, the Pacific Western Group of Companies is proud to provide multiple innovative new mobility solutions that connect people and communities: Autonomous Vehicles, On-Demand Transit, and Mobility-as-a-Service (Maas).

MCI is North America's leading public and private market motorcoach brand, building the J4500 (an industry best-seller for more than a decade), 35-foot J3500 model, and the workhorse D-Series including the ADA-accessible MCI D45 CRT LE Commuter Coach. Zero-emission offering includes the battery-electric, D45 CRTe LE and J4500 CHARGE™ coaches. MCI also provides maintenance, repair, 24-hour roadside assistance, parts and technician training through the industry's only Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) accredited MCI Academy. NF and MCI have been leading innovation in mobility for 90 years, today supporting North American cities with sustainable coaches, technology and infrastructure.

In partnership with New Flyer, MCI also operates the Vehicle Innovation Center, the first and only innovation lab of its kind dedicated to advancing bus and coach technol-

ogy and providing workforce development through electric bus training, now available online. □



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If you look into the engine compartment of the J4500 CHARGE™, you will find some of the electrical equipment instead of a diesel engine. Power is provided by 544 kWh of heavy-duty lithium ion batteries. All of the components and systems on the coach are electrical including heating and air conditioning.



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