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Friday, 10 January 2014

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02 January 2014 | UK

Arriva leaves Malta



Arriva has pulled out of Malta. The operation, which started in July 2011, was this week taken over by the Maltese government which will run it until it finds a new contractor. A statement from Arriva says: "After careful consideration, agreement has been reached to transfer the whole of the shareholding of Arriva Malta to the government of Malta, taking effect from 2 January.

"We have considered every alternative together with government representatives and have entered into long and detailed negotiations to try and find a satisfactory outcome for all parties. We believe that this decision will be in the best interests of all stakeholders and ensure continuation of the provision of bus services on Malta and Gozo for the travelling public.

"Services continue to operate as normal and, as part of the agreement, Arriva will provide operational management advice to the government of Malta over the coming weeks to ensure a smooth transition for customers and employees."

The government's Transport Malta organisation has taken over the Arriva fleet, apart from the 68 ex-London Mercedes-Benz Citaro artics which have been out of service since September following three fires. Most services are operated by 172 King Longs bought specifically for the contract.

Pulling out of the ten-year contract is a major embarrassment for Arriva. The operation got off to a bad start with a shortage of drivers. There were also complaints about the new route network, devised by the government, and about the suitability of the artics for Maltese roads.

The company has had four managing directors in 30 months, Keith Bastow, Dave Kaye, Richard Hall and, taking over last summer, group engineering director Mark Bowd.

There has been a change of government since the contract started and prime minister Joseph Muscat said last year: "The public transport disaster, from bad route planning to the EU ticket pricing probe, is a clear example of the legacy this government inherited." The EU was challenging differential fare scales for residents and visitors.

Transport minister Joe Mizzi claims Arriva has accumulated a debt of €50million (£41million) since starting operations in Malta.

www.arriva.com.mt

(Updated to include statement from Arriva 2/1/14)

Related Content

04 August 2010 | News - UK

Arriva wins Malta contract

A consortium led by Arriva has been named the preferred bidder for the 10-year contract to operate bus services in Malta.

15 March 2011 | News - UK

Malta fare challenge

The European Parliament has asked the European Commission for information on whether a proposed new bus fares system in Malta would be discriminatory and in breach of EU law.

25 January 2010 | News - UK

London artics for Malta?

Arriva plans to use an unspecified number of redundant London Citaro articulated buses on Malta, if the consortium of which it is part wins the tender to operate bus services on the island.

02 February 2011 | News - UK

Arriva confirms King Long order

Arriva has this week confirmed its order for 174 King Long

Latest News | View All News

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Arriva leaves Malta

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18 December 2013 | UK

Electric bus trial starts in London

Two Chinese-built BYD electric buses enter service in London on Thursday (19 December).

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Stagecoach buys Norfolk Green

Stagecoach has purchased the award-winning Norfolk Green business.

18 December 2013 | UK

Merseypride O-licence revoked

The O licence of Merseypride Travel of Liverpool has been revoked by North West traffic commissioner Beverley Bell following a public inquiry.

18 December 2013 | UK

New logo unites Edinburgh's transport

A new logo has been unveiled for Lothian Buses, to match

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30 January 2012 | News - People

Kaye appointed to Malta role

The former managing director of the National Express UK Bus division, DAVE KAYE, has been appointed interim managing director at Arriva Malta for six months.

26 April 2010 | News - International

Malta revamp on hold

The process of awarding tenders for a revamped bus network in Malta has been suspended after an appeal filed by one of the companies which failed to make the final shortlist.

International news



EEV MANs for Tallin

MAN is supplying 40 Lion's City buses to TLT, the transport operator in the Estonian capital, Tallin. *Issue 324*



Volvo wins BRT order

Volvo is to supply El Salvador with 190 buses for a bus rapid transit service in the capital, San Salvador. *Issue 324*



Electric trial for Montreal

Nova Bus and Montreal transport operator STM have agreed a three-year trial of three Nova LFS electric buses. *Issue 324*



Argentina auto artic trial

A prototype front-engined Mercedes-Benz 1725 articulated bus with an Allison Torqmatic automatic gearbox with a retarder is being tested in Santa Fe. *Issue 324*



King's Class for Twerenbold

Swiss coach operator Twerenbold Reisen has ordered 13 VDL Futura FHD2s. *Issue 324*

Hybrids for Hanover

Nine Solaris Urbino artics with Allison H50EP hybrid drives have entered service with Ustra in Hanover. *Issue 323*

Product news

New messaging app for Arriva

A new messaging system that claims to herald the arrival of "true real-time communication with bus customers". *Issue 322*



Responsive design for new NCT website

Nottingham City Transport has developed a new website that it claims will make travel and journey planning even easier for all passengers. *Issue 322*

Hydrovane compressors for

that to be used on the city's trams when they start running in May.

12 December 2013 | UK

US growth boosts Stagecoach profits

Revenue at Stagecoach for the six months to 31 October was up 5 per cent on the same period last year at £1,473million (2012: £1,403million).

Latest vehicle deliveries



Acklams takes Elite and Enviro

Two contrasting ADL products have entered service with Acklams of Beverley. *Issue 324*



Tourliner is right note for Symphony

Three new 13. *Issue 324*



Second Solo SR for Ross Travel

Delivery by Optare of a second Solo SR to Ross Travel Group brings the Yorkshire company closer to achieving an all low-floor fleet ahead of the 2015 deadline. *Issue 324*



Johnsons adds new Scania OmniLinks

Johnsons Coach and Bus Travel of Henley-in-Arden has invested in two new Scania OmniLinks for its services between Birmingham and Stratford-upon-Avon routes. *Issue 323*



Versatile Cheetahs for Kings Ferry

The Kings Ferry, based in Gillingham, Kent, has added two new Plaxton Cheetahs to its fleet. *Issue 323*

Scania trio for cruise ship contracts

Princess Coaches of Southampton has taken delivery of three new Scania Irizar i6 coaches, further strengthening its ties with Scania as it builds a modern fleet to enhance its links with cruise operators in the south of England. *Issue 323*

Coach tourism news



NBfL

Hydrovane has won the order to supply compressors to power the pneumatic systems on all 600 of the next batch of Borismasters being manufactured by Wrightbus. *Issue 322*



Making tyres from dandelion rubber

A new process to produce rubber for tyre manufacture from dandelions is being pioneered by the Fraunhofer Institute for Molecular Biology and Applied Ecology IME in Germany. *Issue 321*



Coaches welcome at famous transport cafe

The Hollies is one of the oldest transport cafés in the UK, located on the A5 just 2 minutes from the M6 junction 12. *Issue 319*



Candella continues to support bus destin

Formed in 2009 to support users of Bright Tech route/destination equipment with spare parts, repairs, and software updates, Candella is now embarking on its fifth year of successful trading. *Issue 319*

People in the news



Beagrie steps in for departing Aichinger

After some 18 months in the post, JAN AICHINGER, chief executive officer of EvoBus UK has left the company. *Issue 324*



Hartley moves to Wrightbus

JOHN HARTLEY has moved from Optare to join Wrightbus as national accounts manager. *Issue 324*



New chair for FirstGroup

JOHN McFARLANE is to be the new chairman of FirstGroup, taking over from MARTIN GILBERT on 1 January. *Issue 324*



Munro becomes First FD

First UK Bus has appointed STUART MUNRO as its finance director. *Issue 324*



New Arriva MD in Europe

Arriva has a new managing director for its growing Central and Eastern European region as part of wide restructuring. *Issue 324*

Wildman for Distinctive

Paul Wildman has joined software

See our special *e-dition* on the RDA Workshop and Cologne. Click above to view.



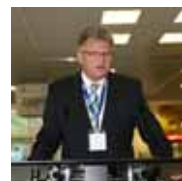
RDA seminar to uncover German market

The RDA is hosting a Commonwealth Seminar entitled 'Doing Successful Business in the German Coach & Group Travel Market' on Thursday 20 February 2014 in Edinburgh. The meeting is free and RDA members and those involved in the coach tourism business across the UK are welcome to attend. *Issue 324*



Kentish ales and Canterbury Tales

The Canterbury Tales visitor attraction has launched a new group package with Shepherd Neame Brewery visitor centre. *Issue 324*



European lobbying by tourism alliance

The EACT European Alliance for Coach Tourism annual meeting took place at Busworld Kotrijk last month and included discussions on a Taxation Working Group synopsis on the fiscal discrimination and the administrative burdens for coach tourism operators in Europe. *Issue 323*



WTM 2013 tops 50,000 delegates

World Travel Market reported a 5 per cent increase in attendance with more than 50,000 delegates over the four days 4-7 November. *Issue 323*



New tile attraction for Ironbridge

Jackfield Tile Museum, one of the ten Ironbridge Gorge Museums in Shropshire's World Heritage Site, is offering groups a special Terrific Tiles package to highlight a new collection. *Issue 323*



1914 commemorations to get underway

located in the area of the First Battle of the Marne, the Musée de la Grande du Pays de Meaux, which opened on 11 November 2011, houses a large permanent collection covering 3,000 sq m of exhibits covering the First World War. *Issue 322*



company Distinctive Systems as
installation, training and support
specialist at the company's head
office in York. Issue 324

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