



**Press Release No. 1/01**  
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## **Fuel cell buses to run in Europe**

### ***Iceland goes ahead, and Australia will join***

Fuel cell buses will operate in normal public transportation in Iceland's capital Reykjavik and in a number of European cities in about two years. During an event in Reykjavik on 2. March for the occasion of the start of the project in Iceland Prime Minister David Oddson and industry minister Valgerdur Sverrisdottir pointed out the importance of transport based on non-fossil fuels. They would make oil or gas imports more or less superfluous since the country supplies its stationary energy consumers already almost completely from hydropower and geothermal sources.

The vehicles on the basis of the Mercedes Citaro store hydrogen in pressure vessels and generate electrochemically the power for the electric motor. Byproducts are water and heat . There are no other emissions (including CO<sub>2</sub>). During the next two years the hydrogen production and a filling station will be built, and there will be other preparations and studies. The hydrogen will be produced by electrolysis. Since electric power in Iceland comes from renewable sources, not even indirect emissions are produced.

Final negotiations and the signing of the contracts with the transport companies of the other cities are scheduled for 19. and 20. March in Amsterdam. 40 % of the about 7 Million Euro for the project are funded by the EU. The cooperation between DaimlerChrysler and Iceland is a part of the project CUTE (Clean Urban Transport for Europe), but has earlier roots. This is why the start event in Reykjavik was a bit earlier than for the rest. Hamburg and Stuttgart will participate in Germany, according to information from the transport companies.

Another party interested in the buses is the Australian state of Western Australia. Beginning in late 2002 the city of Perth will be the site of a test run with three buses, similar to the one in the European cities.

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