



## First Ballard-cell-powered Mercedes-Benz test bus hits the road in Madrid

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Ballard Power Systems Inc. announced on Monday that a Ballard-powered Mercedes-Benz bus has started a field trial in European cities.

DaimlerChrysler, which owns 24 per cent of Ballard, delivered the first zero-emission Mercedes-Benz Citaro bus to public transit authorities in Madrid. Thirty Citaro buses, propelled by 205-kilowatt Ballard fuel cells, are to be delivered over the next year to Amsterdam, Barcelona, Hamburg, London, Luxembourg, Madrid, Porto, Reykjavik, Stockholm and Stuttgart.

The buses are to be driven by regular transit drivers in daily service for the two-year test program.

"Thousands of people all across Europe will have the opportunity to experience first-hand the clean, quiet and comfortable ride of these zero-emission buses," said Dennis Campbell, Ballard's president and chief executive officer, who added that hydrogen fuelling stations will be installed in the 10 cities.

Ballard shares (TSX:BLD) surged up \$1.01 to \$16.96 after Monday's announcement.

The stock, after a jolt up to \$200 in early 2000, has a 52-week high and low of \$39.95 and \$10.55, respectively. Later in the day, Ballard announced that it bought out FirstEnergy Corp.'s interest in a Ballard subsidiary, Ballard Generation Systems Inc., in a transaction valued at \$29.7 million US. The subsidiary was formed in 1996 to commercialize proton exchange membrane fuel cell stationary power generators that use Ballard fuel cells.

BGS is now 100 per cent wholly owned by Ballard Power Systems, which bought out Alstom Canada Inc.'s interest in the subsidiary in December.

FirstEnergy Corp. will remain a non-exclusive distributor of Ballard stationary fuel cell power generators in the northeast and north central United States.

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