



MAN makes inroads in Mexico

IAMSA, Mexico's largest bus company, has recently decided to continue investing in MAN technology, purchasing 181 new luxury coaches with MAN chassis for use in long-distance travel.

IAMSA carries around 350 million passengers per year with 9 600 buses and coaches in 22 Mexican states. To help them with this task, the company has now ordered new 181 chassis from MAN Latin America. "IAMSA is our main customer for coaches and double-decker buses. This set of 181 units comes to complement IAMSA's actual MAN fleet of more than 2 800 units running in Mexico for more than ten years", says Leonardo Juan Soloaga, Managing Director MAN Truck & Bus Mexico.

Of the new double-deckers order, 140 are based on the MAN RR4 26.480 three-axle chassis. Brazilian body manufacturer Marcopolo S.A. will provide the body for 110 of the coaches, while Polomex, Marcopolo's Mexican partner, will be responsible for assembling the 15-metre-long vehicles in México. Carrocerías Ayats SA in Spain will be supplying the bodies for the remaining 30 double-deckers. The first vehicles will be delivered to IAMSA as early as December 2016.

As the new luxury coaches will be connecting destinations in central Mexico and on the Pacific coast, which are between 500 and 1000 kilometres apart, the company has attached great importance to installing high-quality and specially safety equipment in the vehicles. "Comfortable seating with individual entertainment systems, generous legroom and modern air-conditioning systems all help to ensure that the up to 42 passengers are relaxed when they arrive, even after long journeys," says Soloaga. The coaches also have ample room for passenger luggage.

In addition to this a further 31 MAN RR4 26.480 three-axle chassis and ten MAN RR2 19.480 two-axle chassis will be used as the basis for the new Irizar's i8 high-decker long-distance touring coach. These luxury coaches will in future be taking mainly tourists to destinations on Mexico's Pacific

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coast. The comfortable, ergonomic seats have a wide variety of accessories which ensure that personal entertainment systems can be integrated on-board, as well as providing internet access. The first deliveries are scheduled to take place by the end of the year.

The MAN high-floor chassis are produced in Germany and have a Euro 4 engine with 480 hp (353 kW) and a 12-speed MAN TipMatic Coach gearbox. The Electronic Braking System (EBS), Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC), Lane Guard System (LGS), Emergency Brake Assist (EBA) and Electronic Stability Program (ESP) all ensure safety and comfort on board. In order to remove as much strain as possible from the driver on long journeys, his working area has controls arranged in a logical order and clear displays. All the important information needed is provided at a glance by the driver display, which makes driving more relaxed and, therefore, safer – especially in Mexico's larger cities with their high volumes of traffic.

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Caption:

A total of 140 new double-deckers will soon be carrying mainly tourists in comfort and safety over long distances in Mexico.

Photos: Douglas de Souza Melo