

Low-entry Merc

Pioneer C500LE fleet bus order delivered as MCV wins more orders

By Andy Izatt

MCV is delivering its first fleet order of Evolution-bodied Mercedes-Benz OC500LE city buses. Three have been bought by Carousel Buses of High Wycombe which first tried the demonstrator on its Heathrow Airport – High Wycombe route last year. Sargeants Brothers of Kington in Herefordshire has also bought a bus, as has the RAF Somerbus of Paulton has acquired the demonstrator and further sales are being negotiated with customers says MCV UK Managing Director, Ashraf Fawzi. Five Evolution-bodied Euro5 MAN A66s have also been supplied to regular client, Airparks, which is using them on its car park shuttle service.

Mr Fawzi told routesone that the

second MCV-bodied Volvo B9TL double-decker demonstrator had been well received by Go-Ahead London. It has been working for the Docklands Buses subsidiary since the summer. Volvo is prime contractor on the double-decker. "There have been no major issues," said Mr Fawzi. "The trial bus is working well. We are waiting for the right opportunity in the London market."

The VDL SB180 continues to be available with Evolution bodywork through Arriva Bus & Coach. Another stock batch is to be built although exact numbers are still to be confirmed.

"We're more in to full size single deck now," said Mr Fawzi. "Where we go is decided by the market and our customers." He added that amongst its global activities, MCV is still very active in Hong Kong where 70 Evolution-bodied Volvo B7RLEs have been delivered to Kowloon Motor Bus. It has also just started supplying three different MAN-based products to Australia and New Zealand customers. A FAST-badged 12.8m 55-seat Evolution-bodied MAN A69

now on the road



First fleet order for MCV OC500LEs delivered to Carousel Buses

school/city bus for France was launched at Busworld, Kortrijk last year and 20 Evolution-bodied MANs were supplied to Cyprus in 2010.

"I am very optimistic about the product range we have for the UK," said Mr Fawzi. "We have everything that a customer is looking for in bus bodywork – competitive pricing, excellent quality, attractive styling, reliable long term performance, a very strong reputation in aftersales support and also the fitment of our bodywork to chassis with an excellent industry reputation."

"We know that the market is difficult at the current time, but the approach of MCV is to invest in new products and technology to provide an excellent foundation for future business growth and to bring what is needed to our customers in support of their business operation."

"Our sales team under the guidance of Commercial Director Mike Winter continues to make good headway and we are forecasting strong future business growth during 2012 and beyond."