Media Release

The world's first retrofitted double decker sight seeing bus which was carried out by Magtec

Low carbon vehicle experts from across the globe will be able to jump aboard the world's first electric double decker sight seeing bus at a national show this week.

Magtec is taking one of York's City Sight Seeing buses to the Cenex Low Carbon Vehicle Show on Wednesday (September 10) between 9am–5pm and Thursday (September 11) from 9am-4.30pm at Millbrook Proving Ground, Millbrook, Bedford.

The Sheffield-based company launched the first double decker to be converted from diesel to pure electric with lithium ion batteries, in York last week (September 3).

International and UK delegates to the seventh annual Cenex Low Carbon Vehicle Show will have the opportunity to have a ride on the state-of-the-art bus on the test tracks at Millbrook ahead of it starting to take tourists around York this month.

The electric retrofitted bus will eliminate the emission of 33 tons of C02 and more than 535kg of poisonous NOx per year and will reduce the vehicle's operating costs by over £20,000 each year.

Marcus Jenkins, Managing Director at Magtec who design and manufacture EV drive systems for a wide range of vehicles, said it had been a pleasure working with City of York Council and bus operators Transdev to put the ground-breaking vehicle in service.

"This is pioneering technology and it will be a fantastic opportunity for low carbon experts from across the world to experience riding on a retro-fitted electric bus," he said.

"There will be 80 vehicles at the Cenex Low Carbon Vehicle Show which will be available for ride and drive and we are proud the Sight Seeing bus will be among them.

"This is a fantastic achievement to take an older less efficient vehicle and give it a new lease of life as a clean, quiet and 100% emission free vehicle. As well as providing a sight seeing bus which will be much quieter travelling the streets of York, this technology can provide a major improvement in city's air quality.

"The Cenex Low Carbon Vehicle Show attracted its record attendance last year as the low carbon vehicle industry remains a high priority for local authorities and governments around the world.

"Magtec is at the forefront of the latest research and development and the bus launch in York was positively received so this is a great opportunity for specialists in low carbon technology to experience riding on the bus themselves before it goes into service within the next few weeks.

"We hope this will show other local authorities and bus operators the improvement in passenger ride quality which can be achieved by fitting electric drive train systems to existing vehicle as well as lowering costs and emissions so it is a win-win situation."

For more information visit: http://www.magtec.co.uk

Editor's Notes:

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About Magtec

- Founded in 1992, Magtec is a UK based company that designs and manufactures electric drive systems and components for a wide range of vehicle types including buses trucks and off-road multi-wheeled and tracked military vehicles.
- Magtec are the UK largest manufacture of drive systems for commercial vehicles.
- All design and manufacture takes place at their facilities in Sheffield.
- Magtec design and manufacture:
    - High performance permanent magnet traction motors,
    - Gearbox and transmission systems
    - 3-phase power controllers
    - All control electronics and embedded software
    - Permanent magnet generator systems
    - Battery and Energy buffer systems for EV and hybrid vehicles
    - Battery charger systems
    - Ancillary drive systems and components
- Magtec prides itself in providing a professional service based on proven expertise.
- Their first production hybrid electric drive systems were fitted to buses in the USA in 1999
- Magtec have also worked extensively with OEM, Tier 1 commercial suppliers and defense suppliers in UK and Sweden on specialist vehicle installations.