



Transport minister Norman Baker is to attend the first day of Coach & Bus Live in October to meet some of the recipients of the government's Green Bus Fund with their vehicles.

Around 540 new low carbon buses are being delivered to approximately 26 bus operators who successfully bid for their part of the total £45m combined Green Bus Fund.

The presentation to the industry will take place on the morning of Wednesday 5 October, the first day of the two-day coach and bus industry trade show.

The minister will officially open the show on the Wednesday before taking time to meet with exhibitors and operators during his visit.

More than 200 exhibitors will display a range of vehicles, products and services from across the UK and European coach and bus industry.

Chief Executive of Confederation of Passenger Transport UK, Simon Posner says: "This will be

a much welcomed and important visit by the minister. It was only two years ago at this show that we hosted a number of seminars by the Department on how the second round of Green Bus Funding would work. The Fund has been an extremely important initiative and it is significant that the minister will be able to come along and meet those operators and suppliers who are introducing these low carbon vehicles into various fleets around the UK."

This year visitors will be able to take part in free 'How to...' masterclass programme covering a range of industry topics.

'Workshop Live with BAE Systems and VOSA' features an open, interactive stage with presentations. Over the two days there will be a session from the team at BAE Systems titled: 'Why Hybrid?', aimed at engineers and managers who want to discover more about the advancement of hybrid technology for the bus and coach industry.

Representatives from VOSA will also be returning to give some practical advice to operators at 'Workshop Live'. This special show feature takes place on the open, interactive stage, and proved to be one of the busiest features of the last show show in 2009.

The Accessibility Zone, featuring accessible solutions by Rescroft, will showcase vehicles, products and services dedicated to those companies offering accessible services to their customers.

The Volvo Skills Test will give visitors the opportunity to get behind the wheel to show off their driving prowess.

The Technology Zone will feature an extensive array of IT equipment, software, mobile technology, ticketing information and revenue collection systems together in the same part of the hall. There will be a series of technology based 'masterclasses' over the two days.

The Training and Development Zone, supported by GoSkills, will feature those organisations that provide the very best in career support and advice.

Mark Griffin, Managing Director of show organisers Expo Management, says: "The show is now virtually sold out and our pre show campaign is well underway. The demand for space again this year is testament to the importance that manufacturers and suppliers place on the show, and its ability to reach all sectors of the coach and bus industry. We look forward to welcoming the minister back again to the NEC where I'm sure he will be impressed at what our exhibitors have to display."

Online visitor registration is now open at www.coachandbuslive.com

To exhibit at Coach & Bus Live 2011 call Julie Hartley, Show Sales Manager, on 01926 888123.