



THE ELECTRIC BUS GAINS ALTITUDE

In the on-going battle to fight greenhouse gases, The *Grenelle de l'Environnement* (climate change summit) underscored the importance of collective transport systems and the merits of electric traction. Public transport operators (local authorities and transport companies) are therefore actively seeking innovative technologies in response to current environmental issues.

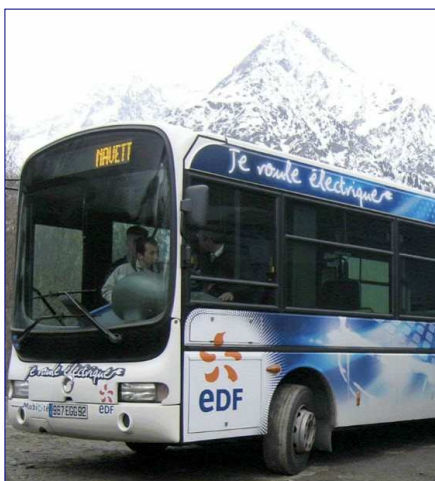
The engagements on the part of mountain ski area management authorities are an example of this new environmental consciousness. Grouped together within *l'Association Nationale des Maires de Stations de Montagne (ANMSM)* (the National Association of Ski Resort Mayors), they have **drawn up a sustainable development charter with an entire chapter on ski area transport modes.**

As a way to assist in its enactment, **EDF and the ANMSM have concluded a partnership agreement for the study of the potential uses of electric vehicles, in particular the electric bus, at mountain recreation sites.** The EDF teams are bringing in their expertise concerning envisaged technical solutions, the type of equipment available, and public funding options (ADEME, General and Regional bodies...).

Two electric shuttle bus trials have been run to define the specifications of vehicles adapted to the climate and gradients of mountain resorts: hill-climbing ability, autonomy, passenger capacity, interior design...



Success during trials at Ax-Les-Thermes...



... and at Deux Alpes.

During the 2009 winter

ski season, **the Deux Alpes station** successfully tested two electric bus routes; these, in addition to tests undertaken at the **Ax-les-Thermes** site in the Pyrénées in July 2009, have confirmed the significant advantages of the electric bus and the attractiveness of the vehicles to local residents.

2009 is a transitional year for automakers who are bringing **next-generation electric buses equipped with lithium batteries** onto the market. French *Gépébus/PVI* is offering the OREOS 2X (22-seat) as replacement to its OREOS 22, and the Italians the ZEUS by *Bredamenarinibus*, represented in France by the ALVA company. *Gruau*, for its part, has announced a new version of its electric Microbus for 2010.

The next GART-UTP Conference, set for the 24th and 25th of November in Nice will showcase these new products..

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