

Michelin pushes the limits of electric bus tyres with the MICHELIN X-Incity Energy Z

Michelin presents the next MICHELIN X-Incity Energy Z at the Busworld exhibition in Brussels, the first tyre in 275/70R22.5 with an axle load of eight tons which will allow future generations of electric buses to increase their capacities.

Numerous studies suggest that in the 2030s, 50% of all buses will be electric, and that's already the case in a number of capital cities. But this change towards a more sustainable mobility is not without its problems, one of which is coming from the increased bus weight induced by batteries necessary for a sufficient autonomy. The current tyre limitation of 7.5 tonnes per axle obliges manufacturers to make compromises on the autonomy of the bus or the passenger capacity. Or even to go beyond dimensional standards by accepting bigger tyres, the only ones today that are able to withstand the additional load.

The new MICHELIN 275/70R22.5 152/148J X-Incity Energy Z tyre is Michelin's answer to these new challenges. This tyre is constructed in such a way that it allows for a maximum axle load of eight tonnes with a load index of 152/148 which remains, however, within the standard dimension of 275/70R22.5. Thus, it can be fitted either on the driving axle or on the steering axle. Its carcass is strengthened with special cables. The specific design of its tread and sidewall is optimized to bear the demands of city traffic, to reduce noise and rolling resistance.

Jean-Matthieu Bodin, Marketing manager Trucks & Bus Michelin Europe, explains: "This innovation will open new perspectives for electric bus developers. Thanks to the MICHELIN X-Incity Energy Z tyre, several constraints will disappear and will allow for a more sustainable urban mobility, with electric buses having the same capacity as current ones. In fact, an additional axle load of 500 kg means more battery autonomy and buses not having to reduce the number of passengers."

This new retreadable tyre also meets every requirement imposed by its urban utilization. Designed to endure abrasion, pavement shocks and branded M+S and 3PMSF, it aims for excellent grip in any weather condition. Moreover, the use of the REGENION technology will ensure grip performance throughout its lifespan is retained. The new MICHELIN X-Incity Energy Z tyre is aligned with Michelin's group strategy to offer consumers outstanding performances in safe conditions throughout their lifespan.

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About Michelin

Michelin, the leading mobility company, is dedicated to enhancing its clients' mobility, sustainably; designing and distributing the most suitable tires, services and solutions for its clients' needs; providing digital services, maps and guides to help enrich trips and travels and make them unique experiences; and developing high-technology materials that serve a variety of industries. Headquartered in Clermont-Ferrand, France, Michelin is present in 170 countries, has more than 125,000 employees and operates 67 tire production facilities which together produced around 190 million tires in 2018. (www.michelin.com)