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Prototype of Nicosia's new eco-friendly bus ready in a year

By Marianna Pissa

THE DESIGN for an innovative, ecological, small but agile bus for transport in the historical town, which links it to the greater part of Nicosia city centre is underway and the prototype will be ready in a year from now, Mayor Eleni Mavrou said yesterday.

The bus design is being created by Demades Design Ltd and the initiative is sponsored by the Nicosia Municipality and the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority CyTA.

"In the first stage, the specific proposal concerns the definition of the requirements of the criteria and standards of a city bus, taking into account the needs, problems and prospects of the centre of Nicosia, with particular emphasis to the historical centre," Mavrou told a news conference yesterday.

The bus will also serve the specific needs of particular groups of people such as the elderly or people with disabilities, she said.

"It will be user-friendly and will also make use of existing technology so that the bus be friendly to the environment."

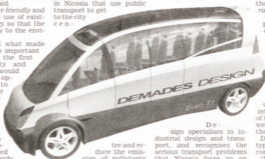
Mavrou said what made the project so important was that for the first time the city and the people would be given the opportunity to identify their real needs and to devise a means of transportation on that basis instead of importing a ready-made solution designed to the standards and requirements of other countries and other cities.

Designer-Engineer Nicosia

Demades of Demades Design said: "The project aims to increase the number of members of the public in Nicosia that use public transport to get to the city centre."

focus on four areas: design, environment, accessibility and innovation.

Demades



Demades said the design would reduce the emission of pollutants through the design of an attractive, modern and functional bus."

He said the design would

Citizens of the capital will be able to contribute their ideas through all the phases of the project by accessing the website www.nicosiafirsttransport.com.

CyTA's Director of Corporate Communications & Public Relations Rita Karatzia said: "CyTA has decided to support the project because several elements of the project express CyTA. Moreover, CyTA can play a substantial role in the project, because it can offer services such as ticketing and payment via mobile phones and the internet, informing citizens of the routes at each stop as well as on screens on board the bus."

Demades said the prototype was expected to be completed in a year.

"We are now focusing on the prototype and from then on we will have more additions to the fleet in 18-24 months," he said.

Demades Design specialises in industrial design and transport, and recognises the serious transport problems that Nicosia faces so on its own initiative has gone ahead with the study for the design of an Innovative Eco-City Bus," he said.