

THE CYPRUS WEEKLY

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18 LOCAL NEWS

Nicosia goes green

CAPITAL LOOKING TO LAUNCH ECOLOGICAL BUS

The first public transport vehicle for Nicosia could very well be an ecological bus made in Cyprus with the citizens having a say in its design. Demades Design, a local industrial and automotive design company specialising in public transport, presented this innovative proposal at a recent press conference in Nicosia jointly with the Nicosia Municipality and Cyta which have offered their support.

Communications and Works Ministry Permanent Secretary Makis Constantinides, who also heads the Steering Public Transport Committee, attended as well.

The inhabitants of the capital can follow developments on the proposal and contribute their views towards it at www.nicosia-transport.com. The design is scheduled to be ready in a year's time.

Speaking at the press conference, Nicosia Mayor Ekloni Mavrou recalled their intention to intervene in the public transport system of the city, as they had done in the past with the yellow buses.

She added that the specifications set out call for the city bus to be attractively designed, ecologically manufactured, easily accessible and innovative.

Cyta spokesperson Rita Karatzia said that the semi-governmental organisation decided to support the proposal because they could have a substantial contribution to it by providing ticketing and information services through the mobile telephone net-

work and the Internet.

Nicolas Demades, director of Demades Design, said the project aims to enhance the new public transport system of the capital by designing and developing special innovative city buses that satisfy modern needs.

The design will lay emphasis on the functionality of the bus and its flexibility in travelling through the town, particularly in the historical centre.

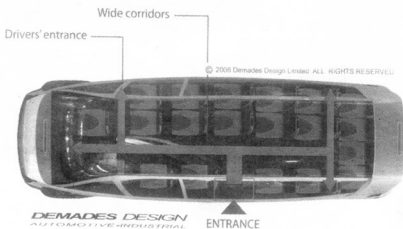
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The proposed bus will be friendly to the environment, both in regard to air and noise pollution, by using a novel motor system. In addition, it will incorporate systems and equipment using renewable energy sources, such as solar power.

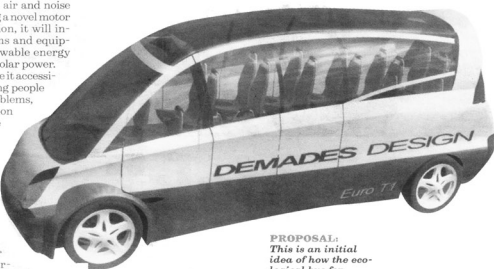
In order to make it accessible to all, including people with mobility problems, particular attention will be given to the interior of the bus, as well as to the points of boarding and alighting.

Nicolas Demades studied mechanical engineering in the UK and specialised in Transportation Design in Switzerland and America. He worked as a car designer with Alfa Romeo and Mercedes/Daimler Chrysler in Italy.

He returned to Cyprus in 2001 and set up the Demades Design Automotive-Industrial with the object of providing high quality designing services in Cyprus and abroad.



ACCESSIBLE TO ALL: The proposed bus will feature a wide corridor in order to accommodate passengers with mobility problems.



PROPOSAL: This is an initial idea of how the ecological bus for Nicosia will look on the outside.