



CALSTART Small Hybrid Bus Working Group



Purpose: CALSTART, the nation's leading advanced transportation technology industry organization, is organizing and leading the Small Hybrid Bus Working Group to focus on the commercialization of hybrid drivetrains in small buses (those 35 feet and under but primarily in and around 25 feet, Class 3 – 6). The purpose of this working group is twofold: 1) to define a common truck/bus chassis in these vehicle classes which will lower manufacturing costs and speed hybridization in small bus applications; and 2) to organize fleet operators interested in purchasing hybrid cab/chassis (cutaway buses).

Specifically the Small Hybrid Bus Working Group will

- 1) develop common Class 3 – 6 truck/bus chassis and performance specifications that will lead to a lower initial purchase price and speed hybridization in shuttle bus applications.
- 2) develop a manufacturer RFP with working group agreed-upon specifications to build a Class 3 – 6 hybrid chassis and powertrain for use in shuttle bus applications.
- 3) participate in a group purchase of pre-production hybrid buses from the winning company
- 4) participate in data collection activities, for an amount of time determined by the working group participants, on the hybrid bus(es) purchased and put into operation in the individual participant's fleet

Background: CALSTART has successful working groups organized and operating in utility trucks, delivery trucks, and refuse trucks. Although hybrid buses are well into the large transit bus market, the opportunities for manufacturers, suppliers, and fleet operators of these smaller buses have not yet been tapped. The Small Hybrid Bus Working Group is leading this effort by coordinating the common chassis and performance needs of Class 3 – 6 commercial trucks and shuttle type buses.

Who Should Be Involved: Public and private operators of shuttle bus, paratransit bus, and small school bus fleets interested in participating in the activities stated in the purpose and goals of the working group and are motivated to get the industry moving by purchasing fully-functional, pre-production, factory-warranted vehicles.

For more information: Currently we are about to send the RFP to send to manufacturers, but it is not too late to get involved. For further information and participation in the Small Hybrid Bus Working Group, fleet operators should contact

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