UTRECHT BUSES RUN EVEN CLEANER ON SHELL GTL FUEL
With the arrival of the U-OV bus company and their modern bus fleet, public transport within the city region of Utrecht has become substantially cleaner. In addition to the cleaner buses with Euro V or VI engines, U-OV has switched all 300 buses to Shell’s cleaner-burning diesel alternative: Shell GTL (Gas-to-Liquids) Fuel.

In December 2013, the Dutch transport company, Qbuzz, emerged as the winner in Utrecht’s tendering procedure for regional lines and city buses. Qbuzz supplies the public transport in the city and region of Utrecht under the brand name U-OV.

"ONE OF THE TENDER REQUIREMENTS WAS A REDUCTION IN LOCAL EMISSIONS, INCLUDING PARTICULATE EMISSIONS FROM BUSES. TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE STARTED REFUELLING THE 142 REGIONAL EURO V BUSES WITH GTL FUEL AND 166 NEW EURO VI CITY BUSES WERE PURCHASED WHICH WERE STILL RUNNING ON DIESEL, BUT THEN SWITCHED TO SHELL GTL FUEL," says Han van der Wal, U-OV Fleet Manager.

The Euro V buses that U-OV had taken over from the previous transporter had already driven many thousands of kilometres on conventional diesel. Han van der Wal: “The big advantage was that the switch to GTL Fuel caused no problems for passengers. No engine modifications were required, so the buses were simply able to keep running on this new fuel. Extensive data analysis of the vehicles has shown that local emissions of particulates (PM) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) have dropped considerably.”

**Benefits of Shell GTL Fuel**

1. No engine modifications required. The buses have been able to simply switch to this new fuel.

2. Shell GTL Fuel burns more cleanly and therefore reduces the burden on Euro VI after-treatment systems. The particle filter regenerates less often, saving fuel.

3. Extensive data analysis has shown that local emissions of particulates (PM) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) have decreased considerably.

4. The fuel consumption of the Euro V buses has fallen by more than 0.5 per cent. U-OV’s own measurements have demonstrated that using GTL Fuel in the Euro VI buses generates an even higher fuel saving of roughly 1.5 per cent.

5. A plus for the city’s residents is that the engine noise is reduced by between 1 and 3 dB(A).

**AN UNEXPECTED FUEL SAVING AND NOISE REDUCTION**

“After monitoring fuel consumption for a couple of months, we saw an unexpected decrease in the regional Euro V buses’ fuel consumption of more than half of one per cent. After a while, even the latest Euro VI city buses (in various lengths of 12, 18 and 24 metres) switched to GTL Fuel on U-OV’s own initiative. At roughly 1.5 percent, the fuel savings we measured were even higher than for the Euro V buses.

The cleaner combustion of Shell GTL Fuel also means a reduced burden on the particle filters of these Euro VI buses, making the regeneration process of the filter far less frequent. So we save energy, increase the availability of the buses and therefore cut operational costs”, explains Han van der Wal.

Recent measurements have also shown that the engines of the entire fleet are producing less noise (1 - 3 dB(A)), which is an added advantage for the residents of the municipality of Utrecht.

“Shell GTL Fuel is slightly more expensive than conventional diesel, but this is amply compensated for by the benefits of GTL,” concludes van der Wal.

**ABOUT SHELL GTL FUEL**

Shell GTL Fuel is a synthetic diesel fuel made from natural gas rather than crude oil. GTL Fuel burns more efficiently than conventional diesel and therefore produces lower local emissions of nitrogen oxides and particulates. The fuel is virtually free of sulphur and aromatics and has a high cetane number, which also improves the engine’s starting capability in cold conditions. Shell GTL Fuel can be used immediately in all diesel vehicles and equipment without any modifications.