**PRESS RELEASE** Prague, 1st September 2016

**First free electric buses in Prague have travelled 23 thousand kilometres and carried more than 300 thousand passengers**

**The two new SOR electric buses, which travel the regular BB1 and BB2 routes connecting the multifunctional BB Centrum complex and the Budějovická metro station in Prague 4, have travelled more than 23 thousand kilometres in the first half year of its full operations. More than 300 thousand passengers have caught a ride on the buses. They are the first electric buses to be put into service in the Prague mass transit system that passengers can use free of charge. The project is a joint initiative of the development and investment company PASSERINVEST GROUP, the ČEZ Group and the ARRIVA transportation company and it aims to decreased the burden on the environment, particularly in cities.**

The pair of Czech SOR EBN 9.5 electric buses serving the public free of charge on the regular BB1 and BB2 routes between the Budějovická metro station and the multifunctional BB Centrum in Prague 4 currently have travelled a total of 23 554 kilometres. Each of the vehicles travels an average of 100 km a day, thus managing to get in about 50 journeys. The electric buses can hold up to 73 passengers and both vehicles transport approximately 3600 people per day*.*

A survey that the operator of Prague’s BB Centrum, PASSERINVEST GROUP, performed on a sample of more than 2600 respondents showed that a vast majority (more than 80%) are satisfied with the introduction of the new buses. The passengers primarily appreciated the quiet and smoother ride that with regular buses, cleanliness and the professionality of the drivers. A neutral evaluation came from about a fifth of the respondents. One-tenth of the passengers were not aware they were not travelling in a regular bus until asked by those performing the survey.

The electric buses heading to BB Centrum have two permanent drivers assigned to them and another two are trained to drive them in the event of illness, holidays, etc. The operations to date have fully shown the advantages of electric power in public transport: the electric buses environmental friendliness and the very low noise levels. In practice they are even quieter than trolley buses, because there is no sound from the overhead contacts. When braking or driving downhill the electric bus, which has an output of 120 kW, recovers energy, which it uses to recharge its own battery.

***Did you know that…***

* *the batteries with 180 lithium-ion cells have a total capacity of 172 kWh, which corresponds to the average daily consumption of 25 Czech households?*
* *last year it took the Temelín nuclear power plan less than half a second to charge the batteries of one electric bus to full capacity?*
* *after a full day of operations the electric buses from the Budějovická – BB Centrum routes once again have full batteries (when recharging 3 × 400 V/32 A) in 6 hours?*
* *if the full capacity of 73 passengers is used, one electric bus is capable of transporting more than 3600 passengers a day?*
* *Wi-Fi coverage in the electric buses at Brumlovka is a matter of course.*

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**Information for editors**

**ČEZ** **Electromobility** is oriented on the **universal support of the development of electromobility** in the Czech Republic. It operates **more than 50 public recharging stations** (10 of which are rapid recharge stations). The current map of locations with recharging stations and a comprehensive set of information is available at [www.elektromobilita.cz](http://www.elektromobilita.cz/). It currently provides **many related services**, such as an overall service to clients from the ranks of owners of electric cars at ČEZ Customer Centres and in ČEZ Point locations, mediates the sale of “wallboxes” and recharging cables for professional recharging in households and in companies. ČEZ Electromobility **cooperates with 50 partners** from the ranks of automobile manufacturers, municipalities, shopping centres, commercial subjects and town halls throughout the entire Czech Republic.

**ARRIVA** operates 2000 buses, 35 trolleybuses and 5 passenger trains and employs almost 3200 employees. The group’s total turnover exceeds 4 billion crowns. The group’s main activity is bus transportation lines. ARRIVA holds a leading position on the market of regular passenger bus transportation in the Czech Republic. Each year it conveys more than 115 million passengers. ARRIVA in the Czech Republic is part of the ARRIVA group, one of the largest transportation companies in Europe, which employs 55,000 people and transports more than 2.2 billion people each year in 14 European countries.

**PASSERINVEST GROUP, a.s.,** founded in 1991 by Radim Passer, is a purely Czech development and investment company whose name is associated in particular with the **BB Centrum** multifunctional complex in Prague 4 - Michle. With this project, the most successful and extensive Czech project of its type, the company has built its excellent reputation both at home and at the international level. Contributing to this is not only the high quality of the projects completed to date, but also its high level of service, its sense of fair play, its positive relationship with the tenants and users of its buildings, and its sense of responsibility towards society and the environment. **PASSERINVEST GROUP**’sportfolioincludes other interesting development projects.