

Iveco Bus History

The history of Iveco in bus manufacturing can be traced back to the early 20th century, when Renault and Fiat introduced their first bus designs in 1906 and 1907 respectively. Founded in 1899 in Turin, Italy, by a group of engineers and investors including Giovanni Agnelli, the first vehicle built by Fiat (Fabbrica Italiana di Automobili Torino) was a car. The firm soon branched out, though, into trucks and buses. In 1903, Fiat produced its first commercial vehicle, and in 1929 a specialist industrial vehicle division, Fiat Veicoli Industriali, was created.



In 1933, Fiat acquired OM, a truck, car and farm machinery maker. The company continued developing its passenger and goods vehicle businesses, and in 1966 made a further purchase, that of UNIC, a French manufacturer of trucks. Three years later the automobile, truck, bus and defence vehicle maker Lancia was acquired by Fiat.

In 1974, Fiat became the majority shareholder of Magirus Deutz, a German bus, truck and fire equipment manufacturer. The following year marked the birth of Iveco, when Fiat Veicoli Industriali brought together its own and acquired brands under a single entity, taking its name from the initials of the International Vehicles Corporation it created.

A majority shareholding in the Czech bus manufacturer Karosa was acquired in 1996 by Renault VI, whose bus division would later be merged with that of Iveco. Renault expanded its bus interests further with the acquisition in 1998 of the French bus and coach manufacturer Heuliez Bus, which became a subsidiary of Renault VI.

In 1999, Iveco and Renault merged their bus and coach interests into a single business, Irisbus, which was owned equally by the two partners. Four years later, though, Renault decided to focus solely on its car business, and sold its share in Irisbus to Iveco, whereupon the Irisbus brand was dropped and bus and coach products again carried the Iveco name.

As with Fiat Group's other non-automotive divisions, in 2011 Iveco's bus division was demerged from Fiat S.p.A to become part of the new Fiat Industrial, Fiat Group's capital goods division. In 2013, the business was transferred to CNH Industrial, following the merger of Fiat Industrial and CNH Global N.V. Furthermore, as of 2013, Iveco bus line now carries the name Iveco Bus.

Today Iveco Bus is at the forefront of natural gas technology, and provides a complete range of buses which are compatible natural gas.