

Heuliez Bus History

Frenchman Louis Heuliez founded his own business in 1920, its activities being centred on the production of horse-drawn carriages. Twelve years later the first Heuliez coach was manufactured, using a wooden structure and a UNIC chassis.

His business quickly develops into one focused on vehicles for the transportation of high numbers of people. In 1980, Heuliez Bus moves to a new factory at Rorthais, France, where it remains today.

The success of Heuliez Bus in the marketplace attracted the attention of competitor firms, and in 1991 Volvo Bus Corporation and Renault VI each acquired a 37.5% stake in the business. The Heuliez family retained a 25% stake. Seven years later, Heuliez Bus becomes a subsidiary of Renault VI.

In 1999, Renault and Iveco entered into a joint venture relating to their bus interests, which resulted in the creation of Irisbus, in which each party owned an equal share. 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 Heuliez Bus 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

Today Heuliez Bus is leading the bus market in alternative fuels including, hybrid technology and electric buses.