

throughout Europe, the UK and Australia.

Now, of course, the company has placed the order for the 84 MAN HB2 - 18.240 FOCR. The MAN HB2 chassis is powered by the MAN D0836 common-rail, six-cylinder engine producing 176 kW at 2 400 r/min. The Voith DIWA 854.5 automatic transmission is remote-mounted from the engine. This configuration has proven extremely fuel efficient with



Above left: From Left: Markus Geyer (head of sales region Middle East & Africa), Nic Cronjé (CEO Golden Arrow Bus Services), Robin Carlisle, MEC for Transport, Western Cape) and Ray Karshagen (management board member business development: bus).

Above right: GABS employees celebrate their milestone.

significant savings being achieved and also offering high reliability.

The remote mounted transmission has further weight distribution advantages giving an ideal spread of loads over both axles and also permits a low engine mounting position. The front-engined chassis with low engine position results in a flat floor with no protrusions into the passenger area.

A further feature of the bodywork is the fitment of a fold-out step that is activated when the passenger doors open and retracts automatically as the doors close. This significantly reduces the first-step height and caters for any physically challenged passengers.

These buses also comply with all current Road Traffic Act requirements and regulations, with particular focus on safety, including body roll-over integrity, the provision of emergency

hatches, passenger seat strength and seat anchorage.

According to Geyer, this latest order reflects the confidence and trust that GABS has put into MAN products and service delivery levels. "With it comes the responsibility to perform and to ensure that the buses keep running, with minimum down-time. This ties in with MAN's brand values and the importance of developing a long-term partnership with customers," he told guests at the handover function.

"This is a growth region; a very important region for MAN. In 2011 we are planning to sell 7 000 trucks and 500 buses. By 2015 we are aiming to sell 15 000 trucks and at least 2 000 buses in Africa/Middle East. Buses play a very important role in this sales region; there is considerable need for public transportation," he stressed.

