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Lightning Systems, Diamond Coach to deploy nearly 40 all-electric shuttle buses for ACE Parking at San Diego Airport

- *Project includes 39 Ford E-450 and F-550 all-electric shuttles from Lightning Systems*
- *39 DC fast charging stations have been delivered by Lightning Energy, a division of Lightning Systems, to support 200+ miles per day per shuttle*

SAN DIEGO, Aug. 5, 2020 – Bus maker Diamond Coach and electric powertrain maker Lightning Systems today announced the delivery of the first 15 all-electric Ford E-450 buses to ACE Parking to serve as passenger shuttles at the San Diego International Airport.

Another two dozen electric buses, a mix of E-450s and F-550s, are being built by Diamond Coach, based in Kansas City. Delivery of those buses, which also are powered by Lightning's electric powertrain, are being delivered to ACE over the next 90 days.

"These electric buses will fundamentally change the rider and driver experience," said Kevin Hernandez, managing director of ground transportation for ACE Parking in San Diego. "The incredibly quiet and smooth ride means drivers have less fatigue, and riders can hear their music and read their phones."

The vehicles are being deployed to help the San Diego Airport comply with California's Zero-Emission Airport Shuttle Regulation, which was adopted in June 2019 by the California Air Resources Board. The new regulations require airport shuttle operators to transition to 100% zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) technologies. Airport shuttle operators must begin adding zero-emission shuttles to their fleets by 2027 and complete the transition to ZEVs by the end of 2035. The regulation applies to airport shuttle operators who own, operate, or lease vehicles at any of the 13 California airports regulated under [the rule](#).

"We looked at every brand of coach, drivetrain, and vehicle telematics option, and after a year of test drives and intense research, we chose to partner with Diamond Coach and Lightning Systems," said John Walsh, CEO of Endera, the consulting and financing company that is working with ACE Parking. "When you add in our passenger tracking and safety technology, these are the highest-tech coaches on the road, automatically tracking every data point of

efficiency and ridership. We are able to show a compelling return on investment for these vehicles versus their legacy gasoline vehicles.”

ACE Parking’s new vehicles also feature [Lightning Analytics](#), which tracks thousands of data points related to the vehicle’s efficiency every second.

Tim Reeser, CEO of Lightning Systems, promised this is the first of many joint shuttle-bus deployments. “These shuttles are running 200 miles a day – so it is great validation of the reliability, efficiency, and range of our technologies.”

ACE Parking is the first to order charging stations and software provided by [Lightning Energy](#), a new division of parent company Lightning Systems that provides comprehensive charging solutions to fleets. Under the program, Lightning Energy provided 39 DC fast charging stations for ACE to recharge the shuttles.

“The addition of our Lightning Energy software and hardware solutions to this project enabled us to reach important range and efficiency targets,” Reeser said. “It also helps ACE reduce utility demand charges and enables them to keep the vehicles on the road 18 hours a day.”

As part of the order, Lightning Systems trained and supported ACE’s service partners in San Diego. Lightning Energy also will provide 24x7 support to ensure vehicle uptime is maximized, Reeser said.

All the buses feature fully integrated Trans/Air Manufacturing Corporation 75,000 -100,000 BTU all-electric cabin air conditioning. Trans/Air, headquartered in Dallastown, Pennsylvania, is a Lightning Systems certified partner.

About Lightning Systems

Lightning Systems designs and manufacturers zero-emission all-electric powertrains for commercial fleets – from Class 3 Ford Transit vans to Class 6 work trucks, Class 7 city buses, and Class 8 motor coaches. All Lightning products are available today. The Lightning team works with forward-thinking fleets to provide the right electric powertrain on the right chassis in the right drive cycle, with a full suite of telematics, analytics, and charging solutions to maximize energy efficiency. To learn more, visit www.lightningsystems.com.

About Diamond Coach

Since 1989, Diamond Coach has manufactured rust-free, impact-resistant buses that provide superior resale value. Offering a smooth, quiet ride, Diamond buses seat 15 to 35 riders. These bus solutions are ideal for hotels, transit and parking authorities, healthcare, tour operators, sports clubs, and churches. Diamond markets its product through a nationwide team of independent dealers headquartered in Oswego, Kan., and is part of B12 Transportation Group of Kansas City, Missouri. To learn more, visit <https://www.diamondcoach.com>.

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