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## Hybrid bus maker delivers first of 21 buses to Baltimore

By Jefferson George  
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A Charlotte-based hybrid and electric bus manufacturer today announced it has delivered the first of 21 hybrid buses that were ordered by the city of Baltimore.

DesignLine USA began building buses in 1985 and moved its headquarters to Charlotte in 2006. The company opened a manufacturing plant off Westinghouse Boulevard last year.

The EcoSaver IV bus ordered by Baltimore can operate on battery power, with zero emissions, up to 40 percent of the time, the company said. Besides reducing fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, the bus is quieter than typical diesel- or gas-powered buses.

The value of the order is \$12.2 million, and DesignLine plans to deliver the buses to Baltimore by this fall. The company also said it has two pending federal grant applications that could lead to more orders.

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