



DeCamp Bus makes history by buying clean-air coaches

MONTCLAIR, N.J. — One of the nation's oldest privately-owned bus companies has become the first private bus operator to put 2007-model motorcoaches equipped with reduced-emissions 2007 engines into regular service.

DeCamp Bus Lines of Montclair purchased 13 new D4505 MCIs outfitted with 2007 Caterpillar engines.

Although DeCamp is best known for its commuter service in northeast New Jersey and New York, it is using the new coaches for its expanding charter business.

"Charter is becoming the dominant end of our business," says Robert B. DeCamp Jr., the fifth-generation of the DeCamp family to run the company.

While '07 EPA-compliant diesel engines have been powering over-the-road trucks since January,

the motorcoach industry has been selling and delivering 2007-model coaches equipped with 2006 engines.

Now, the industry's inventory of '06 engines is dwindling and MCI has become the first coach builder to start delivery of '07 coaches with '07 engines. It marks a major transition for the company and, indeed, for the industry.

According to trucking industry news sources, early buyers of '07 truck engines have generally been satisfied and even pleasantly surprised by the fuel economy, throttle responsiveness and power output of the new engines.

And while the coach builders supplying the North American market have been testing '07 engines for months, there hasn't been an operator putting produc-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 ►

DeCamp

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion-model coaches with '07 engines through the paces — until now.

DeCamp becomes the first and Robert DeCamp says he welcomes the challenge and opportunity.

"I'm running 50 MCIs in our 76-coach fleet," he says. "We're quite familiar with them. When we were offered the new CAT engine, we were eager to try it."

Each of the new DeCamp D4505 coaches is powered by a Caterpillar C-13 engine built to the '07 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reduced-emissions standards. The engines are teamed with Allison B-500 transmissions.

The coaches also are equipped with six LCD flat-screen video monitors with a DVD and CD player, an AESYS electronic destination sign and 55-passenger Amaya seating.

Company founder Major Jonathan W. DeCamp began operating a horse and wagon company as a sideline to the family farm in Roseland, N.J., after serving in the Civil War.

He built a covered wagon, hitched it to a team of horses and started the business. The company put its first motorized vehicle on the road 102 years ago with a bus that was something of a novelty compared to the company's trusty stagecoaches.

But by 1923, the company had a fleet of eight buses and never looked back.

Over the years, the company has had its share of ups and downs, especially when it was time to transition the company from one generation to next. But it has survived the setbacks and continues to look ahead.

Robert DeCamp sees the movement to clean-air vehicles as the next stage in the future of private mass transportation and he insists he's happy to be a part of it.

"It's one more stage in our history," he notes.

The company Website is at www.decamp.com.