

# Vans and Small Buses

## Blue Bird Options at BusCon

Commercial bus fleet operators looking for innovative, quality and affordable transportation found many options at the Blue Bird booth at BusCon 2016. Blue Bird showcased a full range of small- and medium-sized buses delivering excellent fuel economy, enhanced driver visibility and improved passenger comfort.

"At Blue Bird, we're proud of our 90-year history of building buses to the most stringent safety and quality standards," said Phil Horlock, president and CEO of Blue Bird. "Our commercial line customers always get the best of the best in terms of chassis and body construction and safety, so they can transport their passengers comfortably and safely, year after year."

Blue Bird commercial buses provide a unique value proposition to customers, with lower maintenance and repair costs, higher uptime and extended years of service. These benefits were featured in the Blue Bird buses on display at BusCon:

- **Blue Bird Vision:** Available in four different fuel types, this versatile bus line features a fuel-efficient Ford 6.8L gasoline, propane autogas or compressed natural gas (CNG) engine or a Cummins ISB 6.7 diesel engine and a six-speed automatic transmission. The Vision provides best-in-class forward visibility and exceptional mirror systems that improve driver awareness and increase the safety of passengers around

the bus. Blue Bird Vision buses seat up to 48 passengers.

- **Blue Bird T3RE:** Available in diesel and CNG, this bus features a fuel-efficient Cummins ISB 6.7 or ISL 8.9 diesel engine, or a Cummins ISL-G CNG engine, and a five-speed automatic transmission. The engine's rear location means convenient serviceability, extra cooling and higher power ratings and less noise. A wide stepwell makes boarding easy, especially with bulky carry-on items. The bus features one-piece steel roof bows, formed one-piece wheel wells and full off-the-chassis undercoating. It seats up to 48 passengers and is available with hundreds of available options that add comfort and sophistication.

- **Micro Bird D-Series MD:** Specifically designed for the airport, parking, rental car and hotel markets, this new bus has a 42-inch middle door entrance, wide body with wide aisle and a total of 74 inches of luggage rack space. It comes in a variety of configurations and accessibility options. Like all Micro Bird D-Series buses, the new bus features a steel structure, aluminum side panels and large-view windows. Micro Bird Commercial also offers an affordable propane solution in partnership with ROUSH CleanTech on the D-Series with a Ford 6.8L engine.

- **Micro Bird CT-Series DLX:** Built on the Ford Transit chassis for 38 percent better fuel economy than other Type-A bus chassis, this bus has a lightweight frame and aerodynamic design. A luxury package with a sleek, modern, easy-to-maintain gray vinyl interior is available, as are a variety of passenger comfort

and accessibility options. A 32-inch electric double-opening door comes standard.

These buses are ready for the most rugged road conditions, with 'crank every time' confidence you won't find anywhere else," Horlock said, adding that many Blue Bird Commercial bus configurations have completed 10-year, 350,000-mile Altoona testing.

Micro Bird commercial buses also are available through Blue Bird's extensive network of dealers in the United States. Horlock noted that the partnership between the two companies focuses on giving bus dealers and their customers the best options in terms of safety, reliability, comfort and fuel efficiency.

## Creative Bus Sales Acquires National Bus Sales

Creative Bus Sales, the nation's largest bus dealership with 16 locations across the United States, recently announced the acquisition of National Bus Sales, the second largest bus dealership with 13 locations throughout the country. With this acquisition, Creative Bus Sales expands its industry leading sales and service locations while increasing nationwide support for its transit, school and retail bus customers.

"This acquisition represents a significant strategic move for Creative and validates the company's mission to provide unparalleled sales, service and aftermarket support for our nationwide customer base," com-



The Micro Bird D-Series MD was one of four buses on display at BusCon by Blue Bird. It featured a wide 42-inch door as well as propane power provided by ROUSH CleanTech. It was built on a Ford E-350 chassis.