

Janus completes Britain's biggest bus depot - Caledonia

PRESS RELEASE

JANUARY 2015



Last month, bus operator First Glasgow, opened its brand new £20m bus depot and headquarters "Caledonia".

The 10-acre site at Gushetfaulds on Cathcart Road, in the south side of the city, has been named Caledonia by First Glasgow staff.

The new facility is the biggest bus depot in the UK. Initially it will house First Glasgow's 300 buses and 800 employees within the same complex for the first time, but will have the capacity to accommodate for up to 450 buses and 1,200 employees. This will enable the company to pursue ambitious plans to grow bus use across the Greater Glasgow region.

The development consists of three separate buildings – a bus maintenance facility, a dedicated service tunnel with a deep clean facility and a specialist major body repair and engineering unit. The service tunnel is fitted with an automated chassis clean unit, three high-specification automated vehicle washes, fuel installation and facilities for vehicle testing and body shop repairs.

The buildings incorporate some of the latest advances in design. Key features include new vehicle lifts, 20 prefabricated fully equipped pits, a new spray booth/oven for painting buses, new bus washes and refuelling facilities, brand new training facilities and modern

accommodation for drivers including lockers and canteen facilities.

Sustainability is a key feature of the project and the new facility is one of the greenest bus depots in the UK, with solar panels, rainwater harvesting and a high-tech Building Management System.

Caledonia is the latest collaboration between First UK Bus and Janus Architecture. In addition to Glasgow, Janus have also worked on bus facilities for First in Aberdeen, Swansea, Southampton, Norwich, Manchester and Newcastle-under-Lyme. Upcoming major projects for the Group are new bus depots in Colchester and Norwich.

Examples of Janus Architecture's work in the bus sector, for First and other bus operators, include new build depots, alterations and/or extensions to existing depots, modification of existing buildings to form new garages, travel information buildings with staff amenities, installation of a call centre for 'Dial a Ride', external bus wash and fuelling installations,

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KEY FEATURES:

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- ▶ 20 prefabricated, fully equipped pits
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- ▶ Brand new training facilities
- ▶ Modern accommodation for drivers including lockers and canteen facilities.

PROUD TO HAVE SERVED THE COMMONWEALTH

Despite opening in December, the Caledonia depot had already seen bus action. The site was temporarily opened mid-construction to become partially operational for the first time during the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. Janus worked closely with the client to enable the servicing and parking of 280 buses on the site during the event.

First Glasgow received the prestigious UK Bus Award for transporting around a quarter of a million passengers during the 11 days of Glasgow 2014, with all buses based at Caledonia.



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improvement of site drainage, and security and lighting.

“We’re very proud to have worked with First UK Bus on the design of its £20m new depot and headquarters in Glasgow” says Janus Architecture Director Robert Rhodes. “It’s the latest in a long line of projects that we have completed for First, and other bus companies.”

Outlining his firm’s philosophy, Robert Rhodes says: “We understand that developing a close relationship with our client is paramount to the success of any project.”

“We constantly strive to deliver our designs to meet our clients’ budgets and expectations ensuring value for money. We are aware of the sustainable and environmental aspirations of our clients and we have included sustainable technologies in many of our projects.”

First Glasgow Managing Director, Fiona Kerr,

says the new facility will benefit both staff and customers.

“It’s really exciting to think that we are now enjoying a state-of-the-art facility specifically designed for operating and maintaining buses,” she says.

“One of my main priorities is to increase the number of people using our buses. We are working extremely hard to achieve that by making our services more attractive.”

“Our new depot and headquarters is great news for our customers. It will help us improve upon an already strong punctuality and reliability and we hope it will encourage people to consider bus travel more often.”

Fiona Kerr continues: “It’s great news that my colleagues have the working environment that their talent, commitment and dedication deserves.”

The facility will be one of the UK’s greenest bus depots. Features include:

SOLAR POWER

► The introduction of photovoltaic solar cells on the roofs; the latest and most effective form of solar panelling, is forecast to generate 169,000 Kilowatts Per Hour of electricity a year – enough to power around 36 houses per year.



FUEL MONITORING

► New fuel tanks fitted with intelligent monitoring will allow instantaneous readings of all fluids and will automatically re-order supplies. The system orders automatically to avoid overfilling and reduce environmental risks and can also detect any water contamination .

RAINWATER HARVESTING

► Rainwater harvesting will be introduced so that roof water can be used in the bus wash, which is forecast to save up to 2.2 million litres of water per year – enough to fill 22 double decker buses.

INTELLIGENT LIGHTING

► Low energy intelligent lighting that dims when natural daylight is available, activated by infrared detectors.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

► A Building Management System which senses when a door is opened and automatically shuts down the heating within those areas to minimise heat loss.



SCOTTISH FIRST MINISTER OPENS CALEDONIA DEPOT

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon officially opened FirstGroup’s new Glasgow depot in December 2014.

“It is just over a year since I put the first spade into the ground on this site and I am delighted to officially open Caledonia, First Glasgow’s new depot,” commented Sturgeon as she officially opened the facility.

The depot, which can house up to 450 buses and 800 staff on the south side of the city, is Britain’s biggest bus depot, with significant capacity for additional growth at First Glasgow’s operations in the future.

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon with First Glasgow MD Fiona Kerr



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