Glasgow 2014 Drives Forward With First Bus Contract For Commonwealth Games Travel

Thursday 1 May, 2014

Glasgow 2014 today (Thursday, May 1) revealed that First Bus has become the latest addition to the Games Sponsor Family.

First, part of the Aberdeen-based FirstGroup, is the largest bus operator in Scotland and becomes the Official Supporter - Bus Services for the Games having been planning for Glasgow 2014 for more than two years.
The bus operator's network of high frequency, regular services across the city will be supplemented by designated spectator shuttle services linking principal Games venues within the city centre. First will publish details of its comprehensive Games transport arrangements in the coming weeks.

First will provide bus services for all client groups during the Games including athletes, technical officials and the media.

First currently operates around 950 vehicles across Greater Glasgow. The company will operate additional buses during the Games in order to transport the large numbers of spectators expected, as well as all the accredited client groups.

The company will also become an Official Supporter of Team Scotland.

Today's announcement follows train operator ScotRail, also part of FirstGroup, becoming Official Supporter - Passenger Services for the Games.

Glasgow 2014 Chief Executive, David Grevemberg, said:

"We warmly welcome First to Glasgow 2014's Sponsor Family. This summer's Commonwealth Games will see around 6,500 athletes and officials come to Glasgow for 11 days of competition that will put Glasgow and Scotland on the world stage. First's services will be crucial in helping them move around the city.

"First will also provide additional bus services to help the thousands of extra people expected at Games time, including spectators, visitors and local people enjoying the fantastic action at our venues or those looking to soak up the atmosphere around Glasgow and beyond."

Tim O'Toole, Chief Executive of FirstGroup, which operates First Bus, said:

"We are proud of our Scottish heritage and the important role we play connecting people and communities up and down Scotland, every day.

"The Commonwealth Games, falling in the Year of Homecoming, provides an important opportunity for Scotland to promote itself around the world, and we look forward to playing our part, moving people around Glasgow and Scotland as quickly and efficiently as we can."

Giles Fearnley, Managing Director of First Bus, said:

"Glasgow 2014 promises to be one of the most important and spectacular sporting events ever hosted in the UK.
"First Bus is proud of the services that we provide to customers across our Scottish operations and to play an integral role in the success of the Games. Our preparations are nearing completion and are very much looking forward to the start of Glasgow 2014."

Councillor Archie Graham, Executive Member for the Commonwealth Games at Glasgow City Council, said:

"I am pleased to see yet another sponsor for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. Bus services are an important part of the delivery of a successful event of this magnitude, and First clearly has tremendous expertise and experience in providing transport in Glasgow and beyond."

Michael Cavanagh, Chairman of Commonwealth Games Scotland , said:

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"For all athletes competing at Glasgow 2014, a first-class transport system during the Games is high on their list of priorities. It is essential for them to have confidence in the arrangements knowing that they will get to their competition and training venues on time. It is great news that First has come on board and that the transport arrangements are in such experienced hands."

Cabinet Secretary for Commonwealth Games and Sport, Shona Robison, said:

"It's great to have First Bus on board as a sponsor of the XX Commonwealth Games. I would encourage people who are coming to watch the Games to take advantage of public transport in Glasgow as much as possible, as it will be the quickest, easiest and most efficient way to get around.

"Transport within the city boundaries is included in the price of Games tickets so it won't even cost spectators anything extra to travel across Glasgow.

"It's so inspiring and encouraging that so many big organisations across the country are rallying up and getting behind the Games - which are gearing up to be the best ever - and Team Scotland."

Notes to Editors

1. The Commonwealth Games is an international, multi-sport event involving 71 teams of athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations. The event was first held in 1930 and takes place every four years. Glasgow 2014 will be the XX Commonwealth Games and will be held from 23 July to 3 August. It will feature 17 sports in 11 days of competition with 261 medal events on show. The Games will play host to 4,500 athletes and sell 1,000,000 tickets with the event aided by an army of 15,000 volunteers. Glasgow 2014 Ltd is the official name for the Organising Committee tasked with delivering the Games in partnership with the Scottish Government, Glasgow City Council and Commonwealth Games Scotland
2. FirstGroup plc is the leading transport operator in the UK and North America. It employs some 120,000 employees and transports more than 2.5 billion passengers a year.
3. FirstGroup is one of Britain's largest bus operators running approximately one in five of all local bus services. In Scotland, a fleet of some 1,500 buses carry approximately 400,000 passengers a day across our three operating areas, First Aberdeen, First Glasgow and First Scotland East.
4. Glasgow 2014's official partner level sponsors are Longines, SSE, Virgin Media, BP, Emirates and Ford. For more information on Glasgow 2014's full sponsor family, please visit http://www.glasgow2014.com/games/our-sponsors
5. Glasgow 2014, the Commonwealth Games Federation and UNICEF are working together in an exciting partnership that will transform the lives of children in Scotland and throughout the Commonwealth. Using the power of sport and culture this unique partnership aims to inspire, enable and empower the children of the Commonwealth to be the best they can be.
6. The Scottish Commonwealth Games Youth Trust (SCGYT), an official charity partner of Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, helps young Scottish sportspeople to improve and make use of their abilities as athletes, sports coaches, sports administrators and referees, umpires and judges - by way of grants, bursaries, loans or otherwise.
7. For further Information please contact stephanie.todd@glasgow2014.com or simon.buckland@glasgow2014.com

Picture Captions:

Left: Managing Director of First Bus, Giles Fearnley. Right: Glasgow 2014 Chief Executive, David Grevemberg

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