

"Health on Wheels" is Ikarus' latest vehicle development Healthcare right to your door

Budapest, 07/09/2021 Ikarus' newest product innovation "Health on Wheels" was officially introduced for the first time at the Olympic 7's European Rugby Championships in Hungary.

By expanding its product portfolio, Ikarus has responded to the health challenges of the 21st century. The latest product innovation from the oldest bus manufacturer in Hungary, "Health on Wheels" allows for non-stationary primary and outpatient healthcare. The internationally unique product development provides an opportunity to relieve the burden on the health system. The technical conditions of the electric bus and the established operating order will result in a mobile healthcare unit capable of providing close-to-home care to those in need. In times of epidemic, its main advantage is that it expands the possibilities for preventive measures, creates a germ-free operating environment for patients and medical staff, and reduces the usage of public transport by potentially infected people.

Due to the characteristics of the vehicle, the "Health on Wheels" is modular, ready to be deployed, flexibly constructed and quickly modified thanks to its special equipment. As an example, it can be converted into a vaccination point during the vaccination period and then re-converted into a healthcare unit. The internal concept of the bus includes the following module elements: examination room, staff dressing room with water block, refrigerator for storing test material, refrigerator for usage by the staff, telemedicine workstation with wifi suitable for patient administration, fixed reclining examination bed and mobile examination chair, patient dressing room, cold and hot water lavatory, sterile material storage, consumable storage, detergent and cleaning equipment storage, clean clothes and laundry storage, hazardous waste collection, communal waste collector, seating for 2 persons, ramp for wheelchair access. For use, the bus can be equipped with any mobile health care device, such as an ECG device or a ventilator. By changing medical equipment on demand, "Health on Wheels" is able to adapt quickly and flexibly to the range of necessary medical tasks, from outpatient care in small settlements without a general practitioner through the provision of healthcare services for large-scale outdoor sports, cultural and corporate events, to the conduct of preventative screenings. The electric bus is also well suited to ensure a smooth operation by providing power to its electrical equipment, including medical devices, from its own energy supply.

"Although the challenges of the pandemic period are what matured the idea of „Health on Wheels” into a finished product, our own design and user ambitions are particularly long-term in terms of the design, function and impact of the bus on the environment” said Zoltán Tankó, Managing Director of Ikarus. "We always invest in the future with all our developments, and in this case we are particularly proud that this time we have also worked to create a healthier future."

Although "Health on Wheels" is a Hungarian product innovation, it does not want to become a player in the Hungarian healthcare system, but a competitor to it. "Health on Wheels" is an additional service system that helps and supports Hungarian healthcare by offering the possibility of expanding near-residential care, allowing the replacement of the tasks of missing adult GP practices and an opportunity to increase preventive care capacity.

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As a result of the improvements started in 2016, Ikarus has developed and introduced the first electric bus designed and manufactured in Hungary with a European type approval by autumn 2020.

Thanks to the production in Székesfehérvár, increasing Hungarian supplier performance, and engineering input, Hungarian added value has already reached 80% of the 65% European added value, which Ikarus intends to gradually increase further.

For more information, see www.utazoklinika.com, www.ikarus.hu