

Smart charging in Italy

Arriva Italia partners with Bia to deliver cleaner transport.

What was Arriva's challenge?

When Arriva Italy introduced electric buses in Cremona, it needed to make sure the depot could handle the extra power demand without driving up costs or risking disruption to the service. Charging multiple buses at the same time puts pressure on the grid, especially at peak times. Arriva needed a smarter way to manage charging, so buses were ready when needed, ensuring a cleaner mode of transport for communities in Cremona.

Working in partnership

Arriva's electrification programme in Cremona is underpinned by a close partnership with Bia, a smart charging platform designed for electric fleets.

As its urban ZE fleet has grown to 31 buses and expected to be fully electric in early 2026, Arriva needed a charging system that could match operational ambition with technical precision.

Arriva and Bia deployed an energy optimisation platform across 12 depot chargers, designed to ensure every electric bus reaches the right level of charge before entering service.

Innovation in action

At the heart of the solution is Bia's innovative priority balancer, which intelligently plans charging sessions while respecting the contracted power limits.

This means the system aligns charging activity with Arriva's operational schedules and shift patterns, ensuring reliability without exceeding infrastructure constraints.

Bia also integrates day-ahead electricity, enabling Arriva to charge at the most cost-efficient times.

This data-led approach eases demand, reduces peak load by around 45% and is expected to deliver energy cost savings of approximately 20%.

Together, these efficiencies enabled Arriva to achieve a return on investment in under three months.



The result

The result is one of the highest successful charging rates for electric buses in Italy, with over 95% of charging sessions completing above a 90% state of charge.

The partnership demonstrates how smart energy management and strong collaboration can make large-scale fleet electrification both operationally robust and commercially viable.



Fit for the future

By proving that Arriva Italy can electrify its fleet through partnering with innovative charging solutions, we are creating greener, cleaner communities.



bia


arriva