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China rolls out new electric buses

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CHANGCHUN, [China](#), Feb. 21 (UPI) -- Battery-powered buses that can cover 188 miles on one charge and recharge in 20 minutes will hit the road in China in June, a researcher says.

Seventy of the 24-passenger buses, powered by lithium-ion batteries, will be put to use in Jilin province in northeastern China, Xinhua reported Friday. The government of Liaoyuan was buying 20 and Changchun's city government had ordered 50, the state-run news agency said.

Xie Haiming, a researcher at the province's Lithium-ion Battery Material S&T Innovation Center, said the buses' LiFePO4 battery has a longer life and is safer than lead acid cell batteries widely used in conventional electric cars that only can [travel](#) about 65-95 miles and take longer to recharge.

The new buses, built jointly by the Tongkun New Energy Technologies Co. and FAW Bus and Coach Co., cost about \$73,145 apiece.

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