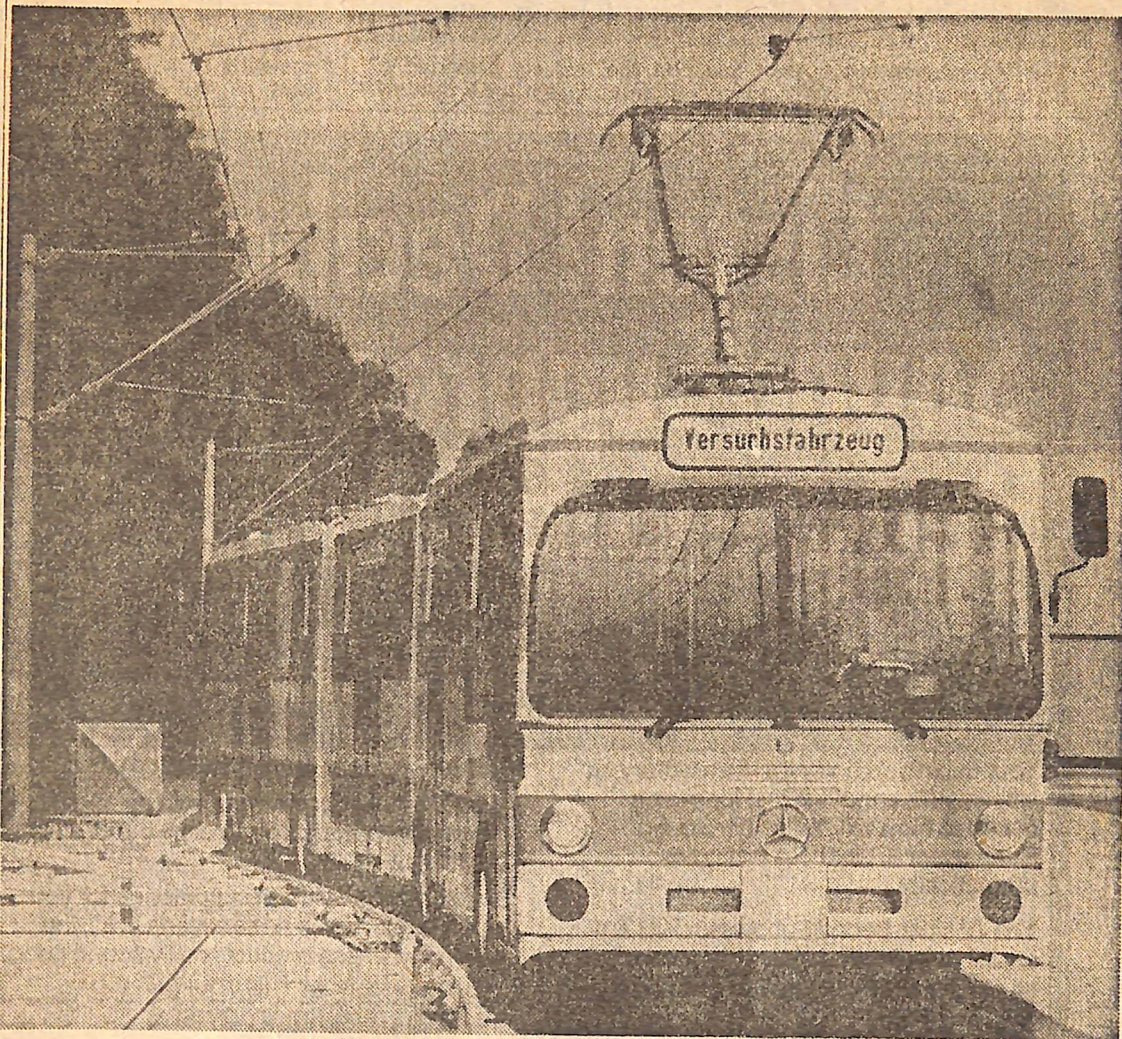


# Monster bus will carry 240



**D**AIMLER-BENZ in West Germany has developed a "Mega-Bus", pictured above, which can operate like a train and is capable of carrying 240 passengers at 'hands-off' speeds up to 100 kmh.

Based on the union of two Mercedes-Benz O 305 G articulated pusher buses, the 24 metre-long pilot vehicle, with its four axles and electrical drive from two 250kW motors, is being tested at Daimler-Benz's Rastatt test facility in southern Germany.

The current for the vehicle is supplied through an overhead line and a pantograph and the return current through brushes and lateral live rails integrated in guide rails. The electrical driving equipment consists of standard components taken from light rail technology, for which

AEG-Telefunken is the responsible partner with Daimler-Benz.

Because of its size, the "Mega-Bus" is equipped for two directional travel. It has been designed to operate with mechanical track-guidance similar to the system to be used in South Australia's O-Bahn system now under construction.

Because of the different tracking path of the double-articulated vehicle, compared with a conventional Mercedes-Benz articulated bus, all axles are fitted with the forced guidance system with the front supporting arms carrying the brushes for electrical operation. This type of track-guidance guarantees stable operation at speeds of up to 100 kmh, according to Daimler-Benz's research.

The "Mega-bus" is part of a research programme into public transport modes and alternative methods of propulsion being carried out by Daimler-Benz A.G.

Other recent developments at Rastatt include the testing of various kinds of guided track systems made from prefabricated concrete by the Ed Zueblin A.G. company. Exhaust gas venting inside tunnels is also being investigated.

A high speed road for conducting tests on buses at speeds of approximately 100 kmh has also been built. This is of particular relevance to Adelaide's new Northeast Busway which, when opened in 1986, will employ a fleet of rigid and articulated Mercedes-Benz diesel-powered buses on a Daimler-Benz/Ed Zueblin guided track system.

Fitted with Daimler-Benz's patented ABS anti-skid braking system, the Adelaide O-Bahn buses have been specified for design speeds of 100 kmh. Construction of the first Mercedes-Benz O 305 rigid City Bus for the Busway is at an advanced stage at Adelaide's Pressed Metal Corporation.