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Monday, May 5, 2008 - 3:55 PM EDT

French firms buys Pittsburgh Transportation Group

Pittsburgh Business Times - by [Vincent Lara-Cinisomo](#)

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A French company has purchased Pittsburgh's largest privately owned taxi operator.

Jamie Campolongo said Monday he sold **Pittsburgh Transportation Group**, which operates **Yellow Cab** and six related companies, to the French firm **Veolia Transportation**. He declined to disclose the purchase price.

Campolongo, who signed a five-year deal to stay on as president and CEO, said Veolia has the financial wherewithal to make the big changes he planned, and to do it sooner than he could afford.

"The timing was right," Campolongo said. "We had a big expansion plan ready to put in motion, and these guys came fishing around. They liked our management team, liked the footprint and the city. Their plans for turning the company from a city company into a regional transportation company fit into our plans."

Pittsburgh Transportation Group operates Yellow Cab, Peoples Cab, Express Shuttle, Embassy Coach/Limousine Service, Star Paratransit, PTG Charter Services, and Freedom Coach. PTG operates more than 600 vehicles with 450 independent contractors and more than 300 employees.

Campolongo purchased the Pittsburgh Transportation Group more than four years ago after serving in a variety of positions with the company and a number of its previous owners.

Campolongo said the soaring price of gas was a factor in the sale.

"We had been looking at the deal for about a year, but the cost of fuel ... Any business guy has to consider the cost of fuel," he said. "We were spending hundreds of thousands more in fuel than two to three years ago. We would have to raise prices, at the same time the customer is spending more for gas. It's a double whammy."

Campolongo said the **Public Utility Commission** has to sign off on the sale, but he expects Veolia to be in charge by June 1.

Established in 2001, Veolia Transportation is a division of Veolia Transport Worldwide, itself a division of Veolia Environment based in Paris. Veolia Transport Worldwide operates services on behalf of 5,000 local, regional and national authorities around the world and had revenue of about \$5 billion.

Veolia Transportation is a provider of passenger and ground transportation services in North America, operating bus, rail, and shuttle and paratransit systems in over 120 locations in the United States and Canada with revenue of approximately \$1 billion.

The North America division has rail contracts in Boston and Los Angeles; fixed route and commuter bus contracts in New Jersey, Maryland, Washington, D.C., North and South Carolina, Texas, Colorado, Arizona, Georgia and Californian; runs paratransit contracts in Connecticut, Maryland, Washington, D.C., South Carolina, Texas, and California; and operates bus-rapid-transit systems in Las Vegas and Ontario, Canada.

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