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A contract worth €103 million

Alstom chosen by RATP and SNCF for the renovation of the RER trains on Ile-de-France line B

RATP (Régie Autonome des Transports Parisiens) and SNCF, the French national railway operator, have entrusted Alstom with the interior refitting of 119 suburban trains that operate on line B of the Ile-de-France regional express (RER) network, in the Paris area. The order, which is worth a total of €103 million, will be managed by RATP.

In the first stage, Alstom will conduct studies and supply the upgrade kit for a pre-series trainset (air conditioning equipment, cabling, seats, etc.) required for modernization of the trains. Alstom will also take part with RATP in the assembly of the new equipment on the trainset. In the second stage, Alstom will supply upgrade kits for the other 118 trainsets, the updating of the assembly documentation and the training of the RATP and SNCF teams in charge of the upgrade.

Alstom will deliver the first upgrade kit in March 2009, to enable the pre-series train to operate from the third quarter of that year. Delivery of the 118 series kits will commence in the first quarter of 2010 and continue at a rhythm of between 18 and 46 units per year.

The renovated trainsets will offer greater comfort. The passenger compartments will be equipped with a refrigerated ventilation system, while the seats, grab poles, ceilings, passenger information system and the lighting will be completely renewed. Lastly, the access doors at the ends of each train will be designed to be able to accommodate, in time, an automatic step that facilitates the boarding.

Design of the new interior arrangement has been headed up by the Alstom Design & Styling department. The company's Reichshoffen facility ("Renovation" Center of Excellence), located close to Strasbourg (France) will manufacture and deliver the upgrade kits. The assembly will be handled by RATP and SNCF in their own workshops.

Built in Alstom's Valenciennes factory, the MI79/Z8100 trainsets were delivered to RATP and SNCF from 1980. After this "mid-life" renovation, the 119 trains, which have been operated daily for around the past 25 years, will be able to prolong their time in service by an additional 15 to 20 years. 850,000 passengers take the RER Ile-de-France line B each day.

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