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France: Keolis wins two major contracts for the suburban transport network in the Alpes-Maritimes with the launch of a fleet of full-electric vehicles by 2023

- Région Sud has awarded Keolis public service delegation contracts to operate and maintain two sections of its regional public transport network covering the Alpes-Maritimes coastline and the Grasse inland area in southeast France.
- The eight-year contracts, which come into effect on 1 January 2022, will generate nearly 260 million euros in revenue. The two sections feature a fleet of 120 buses and coaches and include 17 lines: three high-frequency lines, two airport services, and 12 regular services.
- In addition to increasing service frequency by 30%, Keolis will be responsible for helping the region in its fight against climate change, primarily by deploying a more sustainable mobility offer, which will involve converting the network's entire bus fleet to electric by 1 July 2023, the first pledge of its kind in France to involve a suburban bus network.

An enhanced, better connected transport system for passengers

On 23 July 2021, Région Sud, the interurban transport authority, awarded Keolis Alpes-Maritimes the public service delegation contract for two sections of its regional road transport network - known as *ZOU* ! - for a period of eight years, starting 1 January 2022.

Previously responsible for operating part of these two sections, Keolis will now operate and maintain them in their entirety. The entire fleet for these two sections is composed of 120 vehicles (buses and coaches) and includes some double-deckers.

With 17 lines, the two sections of the network connect the region's major cities (Cannes, Nice, Grasse and Antibes) and serve a population of almost 740,000 inhabitants, along the coast and around the Grasse inland area, as well as several business parks and tourism hubs, such as Nice-Côte d'Azur international airport and Sophia-Antipolis technology park, home to over 2,500 businesses.

With a view to providing mobility solutions that are better suited to the changing lifestyles of the department's residents and visitors, and to reducing the use of private cars, Keolis will make several improvements, such as increasing service frequency, ensuring greater complementarity with TER regional train networks and urban services, creating weekend offers on some lines, and allowing bicycles on board certain coaches.

Keolis

A passenger experience approach

Within the framework of this new contract, Keolis will implement a number of actions designed to increase service frequency by 30% to seven million journeys a year by:

- combining network agencies with SNCF agencies in Cannes and Grasse multimodal transport hubs
- creating a mobile agency that will travel around the region to make it easier for passengers and local residents to buy tickets and get information
- rolling out real-time network data solutions (QR codes at stations, on-board screens and SMS updates)
- redesigning passenger information
- building digital presence with two new Facebook and Instagram accounts

A full-electric mobility project, a first of its kind in France to involve a suburban network

Renaud Muselier, President of the Regional Council of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Vice President of Régions de France, is pushing for considerably more sustainable mobility in the region, in line with his intention to make the environment and the climate emergency one of the priorities of his "Gardons une COP d'avance" (staying a COP ahead) regional climate plan, which aims to reduce transport's greenhouse gas emissions by 25% and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

In a first of its kind in France, Keolis has committed to supporting Région Sud's ambition by rolling out a fleet of full-electric vehicles by July 2023 composed of Yutong and BYD double-decker coaches and Heuliez buses.

The Group will also be responsible for financing the entire investment in rolling stock and charging facilities, converting two depots to electric and applying for ISO 14001 certification¹ for all Keolis Alpes-Maritimes activities.

Keolis builds its presence in the region

These new contracts will help Keolis significantly grow its footprint in a region where the Group already operates transport networks in Aix-en-Provence, Menton and Antibes/Sophia-Antipolis.

Key figures for the network in Alpes-Maritimes:

- 17 lines
- 121 vehicles (excluding reserve vehicles)
- 6.9 million kilometres travelled every year
- 7 million journeys every year
- Total revenue of almost €260m
- 316 employees including 240 drivers

¹ a globally recognised international standard for Environmental Management System (EMS)



About Keolis

Keolis is a pioneer in developing public transport systems and works alongside public authorities who want to enhance shared mobility systems to grow the appeal and vitality of their regions. A world leader in operating automated metro and tramway systems, Keolis and its partners and subsidiaries Kisio, EFFIA, Keolis Santé and Cykleo support the core business with innovations offering new and bespoke shared mobility solutions for modes including trains, buses and coaches, trolleybuses, shared car solutions, river and sea shuttle services, bike share services, car sharing, fully electric driverless shuttles and urban cable cars. In France, Keolis is the second largest provider of parking management solutions through its subsidiary EFFIA, and the country's leader in medical transport since the creation of Keolis Santé in July 2017. The Group is 70%-owned by SNCF and 30%-owned by the Caisse de Dépôt et Placement du Québec (Quebec Deposit and Investment Fund) and employs 68,500 people in 15 countries. In 2020, it posted revenue of €6.1 billion. In 2019, 3.4 billion passengers used one of Keolis' shared mobility services. www.keolis.com

* Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Senegal, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.

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