

PRESS RELEASE

Paris, 17 December 2019

Launch of the world's first 100% hydrogen BRT in Pau in the south of France

- **Following the recent launches of fully electric bus rapid transit (BRT) services in several cities in France, Keolis has contributed to the launch of Pau's hydrogen BRT service, a global first for an 18 metre long vehicle.**
- **This new service is part of the city public transport network and part of its global overhaul. Inaugurated by François Bayrou, Mayor and President of the Pau Béarn Pyrénées intercommunal area¹, it was opened to the public on 17 December 2019. This innovative, sustainable mode of transport serves 14 stations along a six kilometre long dedicated BRT lane with priority at crossroads.**
- **This major milestone concludes a key year for electro-mobility for Keolis, confirming its position as a leading operator in terms of alternative energies to diesel.**

A long-standing partner of Pau transport operator SPL STAP (Société de Transport de l'Agglomération Paloise), in charge of operating Pau Béarn Pyrénées Mobilités' city public transport network for 20 years, Keolis has worked on the launch of the 100% hydrogen BRT service called *Fébus*, that runs in the centre of Pau. This launch represents the culmination of the overhaul of the city transport network *IDELIS*, aimed at modernising and developing the transport offer to increase the region's² appeal.

World's first 18 metre 100% hydrogen BRT service

Keolis is providing technical assistance for the operation of the eight *Fébus* hydrogen BRTs. These vehicles operate on the route between François Mitterrand Hospital, in the north of the intercommunal area, and Pau train station, in the south. They serve the city's main points of activity: the educational (university), administrative as well as commercial and leisure hubs (supermarket, cinema, restaurants, city centre and its shops).

Thanks to a **route which runs 85% of the time on 6 kilometre long dedicated lanes** protected from other traffic, and a priority system at crossroads, the travel time of this key line for getting around Pau is 17 minutes. The BRT vehicles run from Monday to Thursday (6am to 11.30pm), Friday and Saturday (6am to 1am) and Sunday (9am to 11pm).

An innovative transport mode rooted in an environmentally-friendly approach

¹ northern edge of the Pyrenees

² 182,000 inhabitants in 37 towns and villages over a 400 km² area



Built by the Belgian manufacturer Van Hool, **these vehicles produce their electricity on board, using a hydrogen fuel cell.** The hydrogen used to supply energy to the vehicles is produced in the station built near the *IDELIS* bus depot in Pau.

A key asset of hydrogen power, **these vehicles emit no pollution – be it noise or atmospheric pollution through greenhouse gas emissions** – as the engine emissions are composed solely of water. With their range of 240 km/day, these BRTs do not need to be recharged while in service. Recharging takes place at night in the station.

Accessible to people with reduced mobility, these 18 metre vehicles have a 145 person capacity and include 32 leather-covered seats and large bay windows that provide passengers with plenty of light.. The line's 14 stations are equipped with **complete real-time passenger information, free Wi-Fi connection, automatic ticket vending machines and video protection cameras.**



Commissioning this fleet of eight vehicles required **the construction of a hydrogen station, inaugurated on 19 September 2019, as well as a maintenance workshop adapted to using hydrogen. One hundred employees were trained in this new rolling stock** (50 for driving and 50 for maintenance and control).

2019: a key year for electro-mobility for Keolis

Across the world, Keolis is committed to supporting public transport authorities and passengers to promote carbon-free, more sustainable mobility. Recent contracts won by Keolis and recent commercial launches have accelerated its contribution to the energy transition.

In **France**, in addition to the hydrogen BRT service in Pau, Keolis launched the fully electric BRT lines in Amiens (May 2019) and Bayonne-Biarritz-Anglet (September 2019) as well as the Caen steel-wheeled tram (July 2019).

To illustrate Keolis' determination to adopt a more environmentally-friendly approach, in November 2019, the Keolis Group organised the "Keolis New Energies Tour" in six French cities³. Keolis' alternative energy experts presented the public transport authorities with their vision of different "clean" energies (compressed natural gas, electric, hydrogen) and existing rolling stock **to provide food for thought on the challenges of climate change in their region.**

In **Europe**, Keolis is also in charge of numerous electric mobility projects:

³ Le Mans (departmental code 72), Bordeaux (33), Toulouse (31), Salon-de-Provence (13), Prenois (21) and Bouxières-aux-Dames (54).

- In the Netherlands, in September 2019, Keolis won the largest electric bus contract in its history, with 300 vehicles operating in the provinces of Overijssel, Flevoland and Gelderland from December 2020 onwards.
- In Norway, in June 2019, the Keolis Group won the completely carbon-free bus network for the city of Bergen, beginning in December 2020.
- In Sweden, Keolis recently won the contract for the biodiesel buses that run between Gothenburg and Borås, from December 2020.

In the **United States**, Keolis operates electric buses in Greensboro (North Carolina), Foothill (South California) and Reno (Nevada). In **Canada**, in December 2018, Keolis became the largest operator of 100% electric C-type school buses in North America.

Fébus BRT: key figures

- Route length: 6 km
- 8 vehicles
- 14 stations
- Travel time: 17 minutes
- 145 spaces per vehicle, including 32 seated

About Keolis:

Leading the way in public transport, Keolis partners with public decision-makers to make shared mobility an asset for cities and their communities. Internationally recognised as the leading operator of trams and automated metros, Keolis adopts an innovative approach with all its partners and subsidiaries (Kisio, EFFIA, Keolis Santé and Cykleo) to develop new forms of shared and customised mobility, and reinforce its core business across a range of transport modes including trains, buses, coaches, trolleybuses, river shuttles, ferries, cycles, car sharing services, electric autonomous vehicles and urban cable cars. In France, Keolis is now the leader in medical transport services through the creation of Keolis Santé in July 2017 and positioned as the number two car park operator, through its subsidiary EFFIA. The company is 70% owned by the SNCF and 30% by the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ). Keolis employs 65,000 people in 15 countries* and recorded revenue of 5.9 billion euros in 2018. Each year, over 3.3 billion passengers worldwide use one of the shared mobility services offered by Keolis.

www.keolis.com

**Historically based in France, Keolis has expanded its operations in Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Germany, India, Norway, the Netherlands, Qatar, Senegal, Sweden, the UK and the USA.*

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