



PRESS RELEASE

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France: Keolis renewed to operate Châteauroux's public transport network and introduce six hydrogen buses

- **On 29 June 2021, the community council and local Public Transport Authority of the conurbation of Châteauroux in central France renewed its contract with Keolis for the operation and maintenance of its entire public transport network, *Horizon*.**
- **This new public service delegation contract will start on 1 January 2022 and run for six years, generating cumulative revenues of approximately 36 million euros.**
- **Over the course of the contract, Keolis' goal will be to increase ridership by 18%. Keolis will also support the Châteauroux conurbation in the energy transition of its bus fleet by introducing six hydrogen buses into the network by 2024.**

Aiming for an 18% increase in ridership on the network

Consisting of 12 city lines and three on-demand routes, the *Horizon* public transport network serves all the main hubs of the Châteauroux conurbation, which consists of 14 municipalities and has more than 75,000 inhabitants.

In order to improve the service and better address the mobility needs of this region, the *Horizon* network will be overhauled in July 2022. This will involve:

- **An increase in the number of areas served by the on-demand transport service**, which will cover four municipalities, as opposed to two at present, via the introduction of a new vehicle.
- **The creation of approximately 30 new stops** to supplement the existing 500 stops of the network, resulting in an additional 80,000 kilometres covered per year (currently 1,800,000 km/year).

As of 1 January 2022, the Châteauroux conurbation will also provide Keolis with a new depot for the maintenance of the bus fleet, including the hydrogen buses. Approximately ten employees are to be recruited as part of this new public service delegation. The *Horizon* network currently employs just under a hundred people.

Since June 2020, Keolis has been operating a level 4 fully autonomous shuttle service at the National Sports Shooting Centre (CNTS) in Châteauroux, which houses the Keolis Group's autonomous mobility test site. The vehicle is operating over a distance of 1.6 km in a closed site and in mixed traffic.

Renewing the fleet with a focus on hydrogen

As part of the new contract, the bus fleet of the *Horizon* network, which already includes four "mild hybrid" buses, will incorporate **six new hydrogen-powered buses** (three standard buses and three articulated buses), scheduled to enter service between 2023 and 2024. The articulated buses will serve line 1, the main line of the network, which is also the busiest line (45% of network usage).

The hydrogen, produced locally, will come from renewable energy sources. Maintenance of the hydrogen buses will be undertaken entirely in-house by 2025. Between 2023 and 2024, this maintenance will be provided by the vehicle manufacturer.

Keolis confirms its presence in the Centre-Val de Loire region

With the renewal of this contract, the Keolis Group confirms its strong presence in this region. In addition to the **Châteauroux** city transport network, Keolis operates the networks of **Orléans** (TAO), **Tours** (*Fil Bleu*), **Blois** (*Azalys*), **Dreux** (*Linéad*) and **Montargis** (*Amelys*).

Key figures for the new *Horizon* network

- 12 regular lines, plus 4 buses for on-demand service
- 42 vehicles, including 6 hydrogen buses, by 2024
- 100 employees, including 85 drivers
- 1.9 million kilometres covered per year
- 6.3 million annual journeys planned vs. 5.4 million currently
- 36 million euros in cumulative revenues

[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 16 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, the Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Senegal, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States.

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