

The Eurométropole de Metz awards Keolis a 10-year contract to operate the LE MET' network



On 6 October, the Eurométropole de Metz authority selected Keolis to operate the LE MET' transport network for a period of ten years starting on 1 January 2026. Worth more than €700 million, the contract covers the operation of a bus network comprising 93 routes – including two Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lines – and nearly 500 stops, serving all municipalities in the metropolitan area and carrying over 77,000 passengers per day.

A distinctive feature of this new contract is its governance model: operations will be managed by a semi-public company (SEMOP – Société d'Économie Mixte à Opération Unique), in which the Eurométropole will hold a majority 60% stake, with Keolis holding the remaining 40%. This shared governance model reflects a long-term commitment to co-creating sustainable mobility on the scale of the city region.

A modern, innovative and low-carbon network

Keolis is proud to support the Eurométropole de Metz in its ambition to promote sustainable mobility. More than €80 million will be invested in an ambitious energy transition for the vehicle fleet.

By 2035, 60% of the network's vehicles will be ultra-low emission, including 34 hydrogen buses that will be introduced progressively between 2026 and 2027, as part of the creation of a comprehensive local ecosystem for the production of renewable hydrogen.

A new operations and maintenance depot will be built in 2026 on the Frescaty plateau to accommodate the hydrogen fleet from 2027. The 24-metre BRT vehicles operating on the METTIS A and B lines will be replaced by fully electric buses with fast-charging capability.

In addition, the Eurométropole will double the 'VéloMet' bike fleet to over 1,000 bicycles by 2030, further encouraging the growth of active travel.

An ambitious plan to enhance the service offering

To raise the modal share of public transport to 12% by 2035 (a 30% increase on current levels), the SEMOP will work on enhancing the appeal of the public transport network from the very start of the contract through:

- A restructured Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) network, including the creation of a third line, "Mettis C",
- New inter-district and orbital routes,
- Six zone-based on-demand transport (ODT) services,
- More Accelis services for passengers with reduced mobility,
- The launch of a MaaS (Mobility as a Service) app from autumn 2026.

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« We are proud to support the Eurométropole de Metz in this new phase of transforming its public transport network. Together we are pursuing a bold threefold ambition: attract new passengers with more transport services, deliver a major energy transition with a lower-carbon and innovative fleet, and simplify the passenger experience through accessible and efficient digital solutions. By combining our expertise within the SEMOP, we place innovation, sustainability and service quality at the heart of our approach to meet the population's expectations and make the community a better place to live and work. »

Annelise Avril, CEO, France Urban Networks

In terms of passenger innovation, a new ticketing system will be introduced in 2026, with open payment functionality added in 2027. This will allow passengers to validate their journey directly using a bank card or smartphone, providing a simpler and more seamless travel experience.

At the same time, the roll-out of digital passenger information displays (e-paper) will improve the visibility of real-time updates and ensure greater accessibility for all.

These innovations will make the network more convenient, reliable and attractive for everyday travel.

A team committed to operational excellence

Over 500 employees will be fully dedicated to guaranteeing the network's performance and reliability.

To achieve these goals, Keolis will further strengthen its commitment to staff training, with initiatives including:

- Eco-driving programmes for drivers to improve service quality while reducing environmental impact,
- Specialist technical training for maintenance teams on hydrogen and electric vehicles, essential to ensure the fleet's reliability and performance.

About Keolis

Keolis is a pioneer in the development of public transport systems and partners with public transport authorities to deliver shared mobility services that enhance liveability for local communities. As a world leader in the operation of automated metro, tram systems and heavy rail, Keolis transports 9 million passengers every day and draws on a potent and open innovation policy with all its partners and specialist subsidiaries to support its core business and develop new, innovative and bespoke shared mobility solutions for modes including trains, buses and coaches, trolleybuses, on-demand transport, services for people with reduced mobility, river and sea shuttle services, bike share services and long-term rental, car sharing and all-electric driverless shuttles. 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 70,000 people across 13 countries*. In 2024, it posted revenue of €7.7 billion. *Keolis is historically established in France and has additionally developed operations in Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, India, the Netherlands, Qatar, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

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