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Alstom will provide the city of Montpellier, France, with 23 additional Citadis trams for its third line

The Montpellier area council announced on May 12, 2009, its decision to select Alstom to supply Citadis trainsets which will run on its third tram line, thus renewing its confidence in its historical partner. Alstom had already supplied the equipment for lines 1 and 2, brought into service in 2000 and 2006.

The contract is worth a total of €117 million. It consists of a firm order, worth €65 million, which includes design studies, building a scale 1 model and manufacturing 23 Citadis tram trainsets. It also covers three conditional phases relating to 12 additional trainsets and the maintenance over 10 years of the 23 trainsets of the firm phase. The signature of the contract is expected in the next weeks.

This third Montpellier tram line will connect the west and the south of the region and will serve the areas of Juvignac, Montpellier, Lattes and Pérols. 22,4 km long and including 32 stations, it will be brought into service in 2012.

The external design and interior of the trams, selected for their originality and attractiveness, result from a joint design project between the Transport department of the Montpellier area council (TaM) and the design departments of Christian Lacroix and Alstom Transport.

The Alstom Citadis tramway offers passengers an optimal quality of life on board and a maximum level of comfort: low integral floor, air-conditioning, video surveillance, on-board visual and audio information. With a length of a 42 metres, the trainsets will be able to accommodate more than 300 passengers. The trains will be developed at Alstom's Valenciennes site, northern France, centre of excellence of the Group for urban rolling stock. Five other French sites will take part in the manufacturing: Tarbes for electrical and electronic traction equipment, Ornans for engines, Le Creusot for bogies, Villeurbanne for onboard electronics and La Rochelle for final assembly.

Montpellier will benefit from a proven product, based on a long market pedigree and extensive experience. To date, 1221 Citadis tramways have been ordered by 29 cities across the world. More than 60 other cities have a future tramway project.

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