

Akiem marks a rail industry first with electric locomotives able to pull trains from the Netherlands to Italy, via Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland or Austria.



Saint-Ouen, 21 March 2024 - With harmonization of Europe’s rail networks emerging as a critical challenge, Akiem, European leader in locomotive and passenger train leasing, today announces a historic agreement with Alstom that signals a major turning point for the European rail industry. For the first time ever, three prototype electric locomotives acquired by Akiem will operate on all available routes along corridors linking the Netherlands, Belgium and Italy, via France, Germany, Switzerland or Austria. For Akiem’s rail operator customers, this represents a more efficient response to their need for a new traction solution that is more powerful, competitive, interoperable and modular, thanks to the last-mile option.

Akiem’s deal with Alstom, which covers homologation testing and early delivery of the first three Traxx MS3 prototypes, highlights its ability to innovate and adapt to the needs of today’s rail market. It follows the framework agreement announced on 17 July 2023 for the acquisition of up to 100 Traxx MS3 locomotives, with a firm order for 65 units.¹

The prototypes, designed to operate on the Italian, French, German, Austrian and Swiss networks, represent a major advance in the European rail industry’s drive for enhanced interoperability with unprecedented modularity. Two locomotives will operate on DACH-I-FR corridors,² with the third running on DACH-I-FR-NL-B corridors,³ paving the way for new possibilities in cross-border transportation.

Wearing the Akiem livery, the prototypes will offer rail operators an efficient and powerful solution, complete with last-mile option, that meets a fast-growing need in the market. Akiem is the first to own a locomotive capable of traveling the entire corridor between Belgium and Italy, a historic milestone in the development of a more sustainable European rail network.

“By investing massively in rail corridors connecting France to a dozen other European countries, Akiem is actively helping modernize rail freight industry and grow the European market. This

¹ [Press release, 17 July 2023](#)

² DACH-I-FR: Germany-Austria-Switzerland + Italy and France

³ DACH-I-FR-NL-B: Germany-Austria-Switzerland + Italy, France, Netherlands and Belgium

investment opens the door to new routes and encourages modal shift to rail, further strengthening Europe's position as world leader in sustainable transport. The purpose of our collaboration with Alstom is to fine-tune our planning and preparations before releasing this locomotive to the market," explains Fabien Rochefort, CEO of Akiem.

This ground-breaking initiative sees Akiem and Alstom take a decisive step towards the creation of a true European rail system, where sustainable mobility and efficient logistics are essential for tackling the financial and environmental challenges of the 21st century.

About Akiem

Akiem is a leading European provider of services to rail operators, manufacturers, and local authorities. The company offers a fleet of 740 locomotives and more than 160 passenger vehicles as well as solutions covering the entire rolling stock value chain. Akiem has over 90 customers and is present in 22 European countries. The majority of its 400-plus staff members are based in France, Germany, Poland, Sweden, Italy, Hungary and the United Kingdom.

Akiem runs a comprehensive ECM certified industrial ecosystem built around a pan-European network of workshops and extensive stocks of spare parts for maintaining rolling stock provided to its customers.

Akiem is owned by CDPQ, a global investment group strongly committed to the development of low-carbon infrastructure.

For further information, please visit our website: www.akiem.com.

Press contacts:

Agence Calyptus

Céline Bruggeman (+33 (0)6.87.2.71.99) & Imane Zakari (+33 (0)6.76.68.07.96)

akiem@calyptus.net