

PRESS RELEASE

AKIEM AND TAXIRAIL SIGN A LETTER OF INTENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AUTONOMOUS LIGHT RAIL SHUTTLE MODULES

29 April 2021 — Akiem, the leading French provider of rail industry services to local government authorities and railway operators, and Taxirail, a mobility startup, today announce the signature of a letter of intent paving the way for a financial and industrial partnership. The goal of the new partnership is to finalise development of Taxirail™ autonomous light rail vehicles, offering regional authorities across France an innovative solution for the long-term viability of their local lines.

Taxirail™ is a disruptive autonomous light rail concept, developed in Brittany by innovation office EXID Concept & Développement and its partners. Designed to densify traffic on local lines, Taxirail's autonomous shuttles offer an alternative to journeys by road, encouraging a modal shift to low-carbon transport in line with Paris climate conference commitments and helping to revitalise the territories where they will operate.

“Rail plays a major role in today's world and saving local lines is vital to preserving economic activity at the local level. Our regions need services that are efficient, tailored to the needs of local people and fully aligned with the ecological transition. Taxirail™ is an innovative concept that meets these challenges by offering the prospect of increased service frequencies at lower cost. We are very excited about working together to promote this new model,” says Arnaud Deloumeau, Director of Passenger Train Projects at Akiem.

Akiem is Europe's leading locomotive leasing company, assisting rail operators and local authorities to finance the rolling stock they require. It has also operated in the passenger train market since 2019. The assistance it provides includes financing conventional trains as well as innovative rail assets that improve the passenger experience. Akiem's mission is to revitalise the rail industry in France and in other countries across Europe.

Finalising product development before regional rollout

Akiem's role in the partnership will include drawing on its technical and financial rolling stock expertise to support Taxirail SAS during the final product development phases, as well as to help put together comprehensive financing and operational solutions for transport authorities. In five years' time, Taxirail™ intends to have 200 shuttles in service as part of projects with regional authorities.

“In addition to numerous signs of interest from local authorities, this partnership boosts the credibility of Taxirail™ as a demonstration of the market's interest in our innovative solution. Access to the expertise of a major rail industry player like Akiem ensures that future Taxirail™ customers will benefit from outstanding know-how and an international maintenance footprint for servicing the modules,” explains Régis Coat, Chairperson of Taxirail SAS and EXID C&D.

[Images of Taxirail™ can be downloaded here](#)



ABOUT TAXIRAIL™

Taxirail™ is a game-changing autonomous train concept that makes it possible to provide an attractive service while also dramatically reducing operating costs on the secondary local lines that are vital to delivering a public service, territorial development and ecological transition.

Environmentally friendly (lightweight, hybrid CNG-electric or hydrogen motors), flexible (transport-on-demand, modules can be connected to offer sufficient peak-time capacity), safe and comfortable (active axles), Taxirail™ is a major opportunity for secondary rail networks.

ABOUT AKIEM

Akiem is a French company and the leading European provider of services to rail operators, industrial companies and local government. The company offers a fleet of 600 locomotives and about 50 passenger trains, as well as solutions covering the entire rolling stock value chain. Akiem has 75 clients and is present in 17 European countries. Akiem has its own in-house industrial and technical services branch. This comprehensive ECM-certified industrial ecosystem calls on a network of workshops throughout Europe and extensive stocks of spare parts and components to maintain and repair the rolling stock provided to its customers. Akiem is owned by TLP (SNCF Participations) and Eurotraction, a fund managed by DWS, an international infrastructure manager. To find out more about Akiem, visit our website at akiem.com.

ABOUT TAXIRAIL SAS AND EXID CONCEPT & DEVELOPPEMENT

Taxirail SAS is a company created to design, promote and sell Taxirail™ autonomous light rail vehicles and associated services.

EXID C&D is an innovation office focused on tackling the challenges of the 21st century in fields that include transport, defence and energy. It offers a comprehensive range of project engineering services (consulting, design & concept, innovation management, change management and project management) that are applicable to all industries, including marine, energy, cleantech, transport and manufacturing.

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