

1<sup>st</sup> September 2014

## **SYSTRA delivers the Besançon tramway/LRT on time and to budget**

We have successfully managed to build a tramway/LRT for a town with a population of 170 000. This new transport system will enable Besançon to manage the 28% increase it has seen in public transport ridership and transport 45 to 50 000 passengers a day. *“This innovative nature of this project is quite outstanding. It will undoubtedly serve as a model for other towns both in France and around the world”* said Frédéric Delorme, Executive Vice President for France and member of the SYSTRA Board.

Building a tramway in a town of this size required very careful management so as not to exceed time or budget constraints. The technical solutions were developed as a result of ongoing dialogue between our engineers and the town’s councillors. They were keen to adopt a model that would last for the next 30 or 40 years and demanded compliance with stringent environmental quality criteria that only electric traction could meet. We therefore had to come up with a solution that could factor in future traffic growth without exceeding current budget allocations. So we designed the stations to handle 36m long trams even though those commissioned on 1<sup>st</sup> September are only 24m long. The tramsets designed by SYSTRA comprise all the latest generation tramway/LRT technology including low-floor trams, much appreciated by passengers. The tramway/LRT is modular, compact and equipped with a two-way track to provide smoother operations. It has also been built so that the catenaries can be removed on part of the line at a later stage.

SYSTRA was both responsible for providing assistance to the owner and for managing energy, rolling stock and ticketing.

Thanks to other technological innovations, the Besançon tramway/LRT is one of the cheapest in France. That said, no compromises were made in terms of its look or ability to manage future growth. SYSTRA was responsible for high voltage systems and came up with innovative designs to reduce the number of electric sub-stations to seven so as to provide high quality developments throughout the old town. The rest of the line was also optimised to do away with superfluous equipment.

### **A commercial reference that will pave the way for tramway/LRT systems in medium sized towns in France and abroad**

Besançon serves as proof that it is viable to build a tramway/LRT in a town with only 170 000 inhabitants. Following the completion of this project, SYSTRA now has 22 commercial tramway/LRT references in France and 30 on international markets.

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#### **Key figures**

A 14.5 km line comprising 31 stations including 6 in a “Listed” area  
Ridership: 45 to 50 000 passengers at the time of commissioning  
5 km of green tram track + 1 000 newly planted trees

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#### **About SYSTRA**

SYSTRA is a world leader in global mass transit. In 2013, the Group reported revenues of €443 million, most of which were generated on international markets. The Group employs 3 800 people, manages 3 000 contracts and has a presence in 78 countries worldwide.

