

High-speed lines: SYSTRA makes its mark in California and Morocco with two new projects

Paris, 28 August 2024 – SYSTRA, a leading international engineering and consultancy group specialising in public transport and mobility solutions, is notching up its achievements on high-speed lines. SYSTRA has been a forerunner in high-speed rail travel for more than 40 years and has played a part in designing half of the world's high-speed lines in service or under construction. SYSTRA's expertise has helped it win new high-speed rail projects, including ones in California and Morocco, thus bolstering its position as a leader in high-speed rail travel.

In the US, SYSTRA, as part of a consortium with TYPSPA, has won the engineering contract for the central section of the high-speed line between Merced and Bakersfield, in California. The SYSTRA teams will be responsible for the state-of-the-art track and overhead contact system (OCS) design. Spanning 275km, this is the first complete line with both track and catenary to be launched in the US – the backbone of California's future high-speed network. This new contract is in addition to a previous contract signed in November 2022 through Stantec for the execution studies for the infrastructure of this high-speed line between Merced and Madera.

In Morocco, as part of a consortium alongside Egis and Novec, SYSTRA has signed a project management assistance contract for the extension of the high-speed line between Tangiers and Kenitra as far as Marrakesh. This new infrastructure will enable trains to run at 320km/h over 430km of new high-speed lines, establishing Morocco's new railway network as one of the most modern and high performance in the world. The project is slated to be brought into service at the end of 2029, just before the start of the football World Cup. SYSTRA was already a partner in the first Moroccan high-speed line, which entered service in 2018, as project manager for the longest section of civil engineering and project management assistant for all rail and electromechanical equipment.

SYSTRA responds to the boom in high-speed rail throughout the world

The Group is actively contributing to high-speed networks in other regions of the world. In Oceania, SYSTRA Australia & New Zealand, in a consortium with Arup, has signed a contract to support the planning of the future high-speed network on the east coast of the country, on behalf of the High Speed Rail Authority. The SYSTRA teams are responsible for studying the operating and maintenance requirements for the first section between Sydney and Newcastle. This line, the busiest of the current regional trains with almost 15 million passengers a year, will be the backbone of a vast high-speed corridor linking Melbourne to Brisbane.

In India, the company is working on the ticketing system for the high-speed line between Mumbai and Ahmedabad to facilitate the passenger experience, while in the United Arab Emirates, SYSTRA has been working as Project Management Consultant on the preliminary studies for the link between Abu Dhabi and Dubai since the end of 2021. In Spain, SYSTRA is in charge of the engineering for a section of the Cantabrian-Mediterranean High Speed Line, a project designed to promote regional and national mobility thanks to this new link between the north and south of the country.

Finally, in the United Kingdom, SYSTRA is a key player in the development of the new HS2 high-speed network between London and Birmingham, with major contracts for the construction of the new multimodal station at

Old Oak Common as part of the Balfour Beatty – VINCI joint venture, and for studies of the Birmingham approach section to the north, in a consortium with Mott MacDonald on behalf of Balfour Beatty – VINCI.

These successes and major rail transport projects embody SYSTRA's international dynamism and bear witness to its world-renowned expertise. The Group is thus confirming its key role in building a future where mobility is fast, safe and respectful of the environment.

About SYSTRA

SYSTRA is one of the world's leading engineering and consultancy groups specialising in public transport and mobility solutions. For more than 65 years, the Group has been committed to helping cities and regions to contribute to their development by creating, improving and modernising their transport infrastructures. With its 11,000 employees, the Group's mission is to facilitate transport throughout the world, bringing people closer together and giving them access to employment, healthcare, education and leisure.

As a leading developer of transport solutions, SYSTRA provides its partners and clients with support along the entire lifecycle of their projects.

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