

## Media release

Coimbra, 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2026

### **Critical Software and Stadler launch new joint venture, Stadler Digital Labs, focused on railway software**

**Critical Software and Stadler today announced the creation of a new joint venture, Stadler Digital Labs (STADL), specializing in software for the railway sector. The company combines Stadler's leadership in the railway domain with Critical Software's core expertise in software engineering, safety-critical systems, cybersecurity, and applied digital innovation.**

The joint venture will have a shareholding structure of 51% Stadler and 49% Critical Software, which will act as the strategic founding partner, responsible for establishing the engineering, safety, cybersecurity, and innovation foundations. The new company will have one office in Coimbra and another in Lisbon, the latter located within Critical Software's facilities, and will begin operations with a team of 100 people, with the goal of reaching 300 employees over the next three years. Rogério Gomes will serve as CEO of the new organization.

*"Stadler Digital Labs reflects the strategic alignment between two organizations with converging visions regarding innovation, safety, and the modernization of the railway sector. Rail is not only a highly relevant area for the growth of the Portuguese economy, but also for the development of a safe and interoperable European mobility ecosystem. The collaboration between these two companies will bring together Critical Software's and Stadler's expertise in engineering and innovation for rail,"* said Rogério Gomes, CEO of Stadler Digital Labs.

The focus of Stadler Digital Labs will be to provide scalable engineering capacity and deliver end-to-end solutions in railway software, cybersecurity, and digital products. This model enables asset reuse, process standardization, and effective knowledge sharing, combining deep domain specialization with modern development practices already proven by Critical Software in other safety-critical industries.

*"This joint venture emerges from two of Critical Software's most important pillars: trust and innovation. Our experience in critical software engineering, complex systems, and deep tech development will help bring Stadler's ambitious vision for the railway and mobility sector to life. Creating joint ventures like this one, with high added value and strong growth potential, is a powerful way for us to serve our purpose and respond to what matters most to us: helping to build a better and safer world,"* said Gonçalo Quadros, Chairman of Critical Software.

With a strong legacy in delivering critical software since 1998, Critical Software is a reference in embedded software development, certification support services, and verification and validation of critical systems in the railway sector, as well as in other areas such as defense, space, and medical devices.

## **About Critical Software**

*Founded in 1998, Critical Software is a multinational engineering and technology company specializing in software development and the provision of engineering services for critical and highly reliable systems, where safety, mission, and business continuity are essential.*

*The company works with international clients across sectors such as space, aerospace, energy, defense, finance, medical devices, and transportation, supporting the development, certification, and operation of complex systems that cannot fail.*

*With more than 1,400 employees, Critical Software operates in Portugal, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Germany. It is one of the few technology companies worldwide with both agile and waterfall software development processes appraised at CMMI® Level 5. The company is a Benefit Corporation, reflecting its commitment to social and environmental sustainability, as well as transparent management and a focus on positive impact.*

## **About Stadler**

*Stadler has been building trains for over 80 years. The provider of mobility solutions in rail vehicle construction, service and signalling technology has its headquarters in Bussnang in eastern Switzerland. Around 17,200 employees work at eight production and six engineering sites and over 80 service locations, including around 6,000 employees in Switzerland. Stadler is the world's leading manufacturer of vehicles with alternative drive systems (hydrogen and battery) and rack railway vehicles. The company is aware of its social responsibility for sustainable mobility and therefore stands for innovative, sustainable and durable quality products.*

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