

Media release

DOCUMENT 2 pages

Bussnang, 7 November 2025

SBB double-deck trains: Stadler regrets the decision

Stadler notes with great regret the decision by Swiss Federal Railways (SBB) to award a framework contract for 200 double-deck trains for Zurich S-Bahn and western Switzerland. Stadler had planned to build the trains in Switzerland, in collaboration with over 200 suppliers from across the country.

On 7 November 2025, Swiss Federal Railways (SBB) announced the contract award for the 200 double-deck trains (116 trains in the initial order and 84 additional trains as an option) for Zurich S-Bahn and western Switzerland. Stadler notes with great regret that the contract was not awarded to Stadler, a proven Swiss manufacturer of double-deck technology.

Stadler double-deck trains with 99 per cent availability at SBB

As a Swiss company with proven expertise in the construction of double-deck trains with maximum reliability, Stadler would have delivered an economically and technologically convincing solution. Stadler's well-known KISS double-deck trains have been operating successfully on the Zurich S-Bahn network since 2012. In addition, Stadler double-decker trains are in daily use in 14 countries with a high level of reliability: from Azerbaijan to Germany to the USA. Stadler has sold around 700 KISS double-decker trains worldwide to date – 192 of them to Switzerland.

Stadler CEO Markus Bernsteiner: "A great disappointment"

Stadler CEO Markus Bernsteiner: "With 99 per cent availability, Stadler's double-deck trains are among the most reliable trains in the SBB fleet. The fact that, despite our vehicles being tried and tested and popular in daily use by SBB, we were not chosen to supply SBB with the latest technology is a great disappointment for Stadler and our approximately 6,000 employees in Switzerland."

Stadler manufactures in Switzerland

Stadler builds trains for Switzerland at its plants in Bussnang in Thurgau and St. Margrethen in the St. Gallen Rhine Valley. This means that up to 80 per cent of the added value remains in Switzerland. Well over 200 SMEs from all over Switzerland supply Stadler with components for the trains.

Even after this decision by SBB, Stadler remains strongly connected to its home market. The company employs over 16,600 people worldwide, including around 6,000 in Switzerland.

Stadler continuously invests in new railway technologies, training and infrastructure. Stadler will continue to do so.

Stadler will carefully analyse SBB's reasoning.

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 16,600 employees work at 8 production and 6 engineering locations as well as over 80 service locations, including over 5,600 employees in Switzerland.

The company is aware of its social responsibility for sustainable mobility and therefore stands for innovative, sustainable and durable quality products. The product range in the mainline and urban transport sector includes high-speed trains, intercity trains, regional and suburban trains, underground trains, tram-trains and trams. Stadler also manufactures mainline locomotives, shunting locomotives and passenger coaches. Stadler is the world's leading manufacturer of rack-and-pinion railway vehicles.

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