

Media release

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Saudi Arabia Railways orders ten additional tailor-made intercity trains from Stadler

Saudi Arabia Railways (SAR) has exercised the option included in the contract signed in 2024 and ordered ten additional intercity trains from Stadler. This doubles the fleet of vehicles specially developed for Saudi Arabia from ten to a total of twenty train sets. The existing maintenance agreement will also be extended to cover the additional vehicles. The contract value exceeds 300 million Swiss francs. The trains will be built in Switzerland.

The order followed a financing agreement that Saudi Arabia Railways (SAR) signed at InnoTrans, the world's largest rail industry trade fair, in Berlin at the end of September 2026. The contract demonstrates the confidence of SAR in Stadler's tailor-made solution.

Designed for the requirements of Saudi Arabia

The new intercity trains were developed jointly by Stadler and SAR to meet the climatic and operational requirements of Saudi Arabia. Extreme heat, sand, and demanding expectations regarding availability and passenger comfort have shaped the vehicle concept.

The approximately 175-metre-long trains feature two independent power cars and numerous redundant systems. Special protection and filtration systems help ensure reliable operation even under challenging environmental conditions. The trains accommodate around 320 passengers and meet the highest international standards.

Strong vote of confidence

"The exercise of this option is a great honour for us and a strong sign of trust. Together with SAR, we have developed a tailor-made solution that meets the highest standards in both technology and passenger comfort. The fact that our customer is already doubling the fleet at this stage underlines the strength of our partnership and makes us proud," says Lucius Gerig, Executive Vice President Division Switzerland and Member of the Group Executive Board.

More capacity and greater comfort

By doubling the fleet, SAR continues to invest in a train concept that combines high performance with an exceptional travel experience. The vehicles feature different comfort classes, generous luggage areas, and various other amenities tailored to the needs of the Saudi Arabian market.

The trains are intended for operation on SAR's East-West line and will connect the regions of Riyadh, Hofuf, Abqaiq and Dammam.

Production in Switzerland

The additional vehicles will be produced primarily at Stadler's facilities in Switzerland. The car bodies for the power cars will be manufactured at Stadler's plant in Valencia, Spain. Production will commence directly following the first series, which entered production in April 2026.

Commercial passenger service is expected to begin in the second half of 2029. One milestone has already been confirmed: Stadler and SAR will present the new train to the public at InnoTrans 2028, the world's largest rail industry trade fair.

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 18,000 employees work at eight production and six engineering sites and over 95 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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