

**Media release**

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**Stadler FLIRT trains soon to run hourly from Chur to Berne**

**Schweizerische Südostbahn AG (SOB) and Stadler today signed a contract for the delivery of 12 additional FLIRT trains. From 12 December 2021, SOB will operate hourly trains on the Chur-Zurich-Berne line under an SBB long-distance licence. The «Traverso» long-distance trains are to be used on this new SOB line.**

SOB and Stadler today signed a contract in St. Gallen for the delivery of twelve additional FLIRT trains. These vehicles consist of 7 eight-car, copper-coloured FLIRT multiple units, called «Traverso», and 5 four-car, silver-coloured FLIRT trains. The trains are characterized by innovation and comfort. The high-quality, eight-car long-distance «Traverso» trains have 359 seats, 68 of which are in first class (2+1 seating). All seats are equipped with power outlets. Travellers can eat in the two bistro areas and a designated family area is also available. The trains meet the most recent European legislation regarding equal access for disabled persons, and have an information system with at least four and up to seven screens per car. SOB will operate the uniform long-distance «Traverso» trains on the Voralpen-Express route between St. Gallen and Lucerne from 15 December 2019, on the Gotthard mountain route from 13 December 2020, and between Chur and Berne from mid-December 2021.

**A total of 34 new trains for SOB**

SOB ordered six eight-car and five four-car electric low-floor multiple units from Stadler at the end of June 2016 in order to be able to replace its older compositions, some of which had been in operation for 40 years, when the timetable changes for 2019. The eight-car trains will run on the Voralpen-Express route between St. Gallen and Lucerne, adding to the quality and comfort of the journey through the Pre-Alps. The four-car multiple units can carry 197 passengers, including 22 in first class, reinforcing the existing FLIRT fleet used in regional transport.

From 13 December 2020, SOB will also operate the new «Traverso» in cooperation with SBB on the long-distance line from Basel or Zurich over the Gotthard mountain route to Locarno. In December 2017, SOB exercised an option to order eleven additional eight-car «Traverso» long-distance trains for the route.

Chur-Zurich-Berne is the second line that SOB will operate on behalf of SBB. SOB is exercising a second option with the delivery contract signed today for seven additional eight-car «Traverso» long-distance trains and five four-car FLIRT trains.

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## **About Stadler**

*International rail vehicle construction company, Stadler, is headquartered in Bussnang in Eastern Switzerland. Founded in 1942, it has a workforce of over 7,600 based in various production, service and engineering locations across Switzerland, Germany, Spain, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Belarus and the United States. Service locations are also being operated in countries including Algeria, Denmark, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the UK. Stadler provides a comprehensive range of products in the heavy and urban transport segments: high-speed trains, intercity trains, regional and commuter heavy rail trains, underground trains, tram trains and trams. Stadler also manufactures main-line locomotives, shunting locomotives and passenger carriages, including the most powerful diesel-electric locomotive in Europe. It is the world's leading manufacturer in the rack-and-pinion rail vehicle industry.*

*The best-selling FLIRT (Fast Light Intercity- and Regional Train) vehicle has already sold more than 1,600 units in a total of 18 countries. The KISS, an acronym of the German for Comfortable Innovative Speedy Suburban Train, is also very popular, with nearly 300 units sold in 11 countries. The most powerful diesel-electric locomotive in Europe is the EURO4000, which has sold 140 units in 7 countries. The Stadler Service division maintains vehicle fleets and comprises more than 680 vehicles, covering a combined annual distance of 120 million kilometres in 16 different countries.*

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