

**Media release**

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**New Stadler FLIRT trains for SBB's Berne–La Chaux-de-Fonds route**

**SBB and Stadler signed a contract for the supply of seven new FLIRT trains worth around 65 million francs. SBB will take over the Berne–La Chaux-de-Fonds line from BLS in December 2020. It will put the new trains, referred to as «Mouette» (French for seagull) by SBB, into operation on this route.**

Head of SBB passenger services Toni Häne and Group CEO of Stadler Thomas Ahlburg signed a contract for the supply of seven four-car FLIRT trains.

SBB will incorporate the Berne–La Chaux-de-Fonds route into its long-distance network under the designation IR66 upon renewing its long-distance licences in December 2020. The Neuchâtel Jura region will then be connected to SBB's Swiss-wide long-distance network. SBB is purchasing new one-storey, high-acceleration, wheelchair-compatible vehicles for this purpose. The seven new trains, christened Mouette, will be given a comfortable long-distance design, to be built between 2019 and 2021. The four-car trains can seat over 27 passengers in first class (2+1 seating) and 154 in second class. Each seat is fitted with a power outlet. At peak times, the Mouette trains can be coupled together in order to offer sufficient seating for all passengers. During off-peak hours, the trains can be shortened to help save energy and costs.

The contract was awarded privately in accordance with public procurement law, and includes an option for seven additional vehicles.

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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 170 million kilometres in 16 different countries.*

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