

Press Release

The city of Belgrade awards RATP Dev an “Early Operator Assistance” contract for the Belgrade automated metro system.

Paris, January 16, 2023 — The City of Belgrade signs with RATP Dev an “Early Operator Assistance” contract of one year with option for a second year for the three lines of the Belgrade metro system, which will be launched in 2028. From March 1st, 2023, RATP Dev, the international subsidiary for RATP Group, will assist the City of Belgrade’s Secretariat for Public Transport and BMV (Beogradski Metro i Voz). RATP Dev will bring its international operator experience and expertise to review and advise on the functional design and specifications of the metro system, with a specific focus on passenger experience, safety, operation and maintenance concepts, and optimization of life cycle cost.

This contract is a new milestone in the partnership between the City of Belgrade and RATP Dev. It highlights the willingness of the two partners to work hand in hand and set the groundwork of the future metro at the highest international standards.

After the signing of a “Memorandum of Understanding” last June, between the City of Belgrade and RATP Dev, this second step entrusts RATP Dev with assisting the city in the optimization of the design of the future metro system of Belgrade.

The Belgrade fully automated Metro Project is the Republic of Serbia's largest and most important infrastructure project. The metro planned network consists of Line 1 (21.8 km, 21 stations, opening in 2028), Line 2 (24.2 km, 26 stations, opening in 2030) and Line 3 (23 km, 22 stations).

“The Belgrade Metro Project represents the largest and the most important infrastructure project that will be built in the coming period in the City of Belgrade, and the entire Republic of Serbia. The inclusion of the RATP Dev company will be of great importance for the whole project since it will, with its knowledge and experience, contribute to a better and faster realization of this very important project for our community” states **Andreja Mladenović**, acting director of PUC, Belgrade Metro and Train.

“The contract signed today and the actions that will ensue in the following period give us the right to finally have something tangible regarding what has been the number one topic for the past few decades in Belgrade. This year will be extremely important because the depot on Makiš will already be visible, as well as the road that will begin to be built towards Železnik and Belevode, and finally the dimensions of the TBM machine should be defined, because it is being constructed for this purpose. For now, we are not late in any segment of this project, and we really have a well-founded hope that the deadlines that have been set will be met – namely that from 2028 to 2030 both lines of the Belgrade metro will come to life”, said Aleksandar Šapić the Mayor of Belgrade, adding that the metro must become “the backbone of public transport, because Belgrade cannot withstand an increase in traffic and the number of cars.”

Mr Šapić said that he is particularly happy that the Belgrade Metro Project has finally be moving forward in the last two years. *“Unlike previous announcements and various mock-ups and grand stories that we had been listening to, this time it is different and everything that has been done so far shows us that we can be very optimistic and that the citizens of Belgrade will finally be able to use the metro in public transport like the citizens of all European and world metropolises “ concluded the Mayor of the capital.*

Being a pioneer in automated metro system, RATP Group and its international subsidiary, RATP Dev are at the service of cities and public transport authorities, enabling them to make strategic decisions to boost their development and attractiveness. For every mode of transport, RATP Dev is known for deploying mobility solutions for each city, depending on its history and needs, to transform the existing system or to invent the public transport of the future.

“We are honored by the trust of the City of Belgrade. We are looking forward to contributing with our expertise in the operation of multi-modal, integrated public transport networks to Belgrade’s bold urban vision. Our experts, in Paris and now in Serbia, are mobilized to ensure efficient everyday operations and great traveler experience when the future driverless metro opens, as well as the upskilling of local staff” states **Hiba Farès, CEO of RATP Dev**

In Belgrade, just like everywhere RATP Dev operates, the company is also committed to empowering its locally-hired teams with high-end know-how for the operation and maintenance of their public transport network and training them to the best international standards.

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About RATP Dev

Founded in 2002, RATP Dev operates and maintains urban transportation systems in 16 countries on 5 continents (Serbia, Saudi Arabia, France, Italy, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Belgium, the United States of America, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, South Africa, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong SAR China, the Philippines and Australia). RATP Dev demonstrates every day its extensive and renowned expertise in a wide range of mobility services, ranging from rail, regional express rail, and streetcar to bus, cable car, and sightseeing activities. RATP Dev leverages in France, outside of Paris, and across international markets the technical expertise and experience of RATP Group, the leader in driverless metro and tramway operations and operator of the Paris network, one of the largest public transportation networks in the world.

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