

Akiem Inaugurates Its Locomotive Maintenance and Overhaul Workshop in Ostricourt, Northern France

Saint-Ouen, May 17, 2024 - Akiem, a European leader in locomotive and passenger train leasing, inaugurates its locomotive maintenance and overhaul workshop in Ostricourt, Northern France. Located in a region historically significant to the French railway industry, the Ostricourt site aims to set a new benchmark in terms of capacity and training in railway maintenance professions.

"In a fast-changing world where environmental challenges demand innovative solutions, Akiem is a proactive force at the heart of the revolution sweeping Europe's rail industry" declares Fabien Rochefort, CEO of Akiem, during the inauguration of Akiem's new maintenance center in Ostricourt, in the presence of local authorities and elected officials on May 15, 2024.

Maintenance: a major challenge for rolling stock lessors

After the acquisition of mgw Service in 2018, an independent locomotive maintenance company in Europe, Akiem has expanded its offerings, strengthened and consolidated its network in Europe through the creation of its Akiem Maintenance and Services activity.

Akiem continues to pursue this strategy in 2024 by investing in a new railway maintenance facility in Ostricourt, in Northern France. Akiem now offers its rail operator customers comprehensive maintenance services and turnkey solutions to ensure the availability and reliability of rolling stock, two major challenges for them.

The Ostricourt site: a modern workshop, strategic for the railway transport sector, with a full order book until 2030

Across Europe, Akiem offers its clients a truly integrated service including the provision and maintenance of locomotives. The Ostricourt facility strengthens its competitive position and illustrates its commitment to excellence in railway maintenance: *"Thanks to the Ostricourt workshop, Akiem aims to double its maintenance capacity by 2026-2027 and to internalize the heavy maintenance of its Prima locomotives, thus extending their services lives by an additional decade. Our ambition is also to reduce our reliance on third parties and to develop new services, particularly by making our wheel lathe available in 'open access',"* says Julien Assencio, Managing Director of Akiem Maintenance and Services in France.

Delivered in less than 18 months at a cost of nearly 22 million euros, this new maintenance center, covering more than 60,000 square meters, is equipped with 10 workstations that allow it to carry out routine "Full Service" maintenance activities as well as major overhauls (or mid-life operations, MLO) and underfloor wheel reprofiling. *"This project, representative of our commitment to the French market, stimulates the national railway industry, acting as a catalyst in the development of a true new high-quality maintenance ecosystem focused on customer satisfaction and service innovation to ensure enhanced quality and safety, a high delivery rate, and reinforced operational availability,"* adds Fabien Rochefort.

A meaningful project for the industry and the region

The construction of this workshop mobilized local companies. Its entry into service in May 2024 involves hiring around thirty new colleagues, increasing the site's total workforce to 70 and helping revitalise and reindustrialise a region with strong historic links to the rail industry.

"In the long term, with the support of local elected officials, we hope to create a training and apprenticeship center for rolling stock maintenance professions in the Hauts-de-France region, particularly in the Nord department," concludes Fabien Rochefort.

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*This project was funded by the Government under the Recovery Plan, Territoire d'Industries programme.

About Akiem

Akiem is a leading European provider of services to rail operators, manufacturers, and local authorities. The company offers a fleet of 750 locomotives and more than 46 passenger vehicles as well as solutions covering the entire rolling stock value chain. Akiem has over 90 customers and is present in 22 European countries. The majority of its 400-plus staff members are based in France, Germany, Poland, Sweden, Italy, Hungary and the United Kingdom. Akiem runs a comprehensive ECM (Entity in Charge of Maintenance)-certified industrial ecosystem built around a pan-European network of workshops and extensive stocks of spare parts for maintaining rolling stock provided to its customers. Akiem is owned by CDPQ, a global investment group strongly committed to the development of low-carbon infrastructure.

For more information, please visit www.akiem.com

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