Keolis renews its contract to operate the Hellweg network in Germany

On October 7, Keolis Deutschland was officially awarded a new 12-year contract to operate the Eurobahn on Germany’s Hellweg regional network. The agreement was given following a competitive tender by Rhine-Ruhr Transport Authority (VRR) and Westphalia-Lippe Local Transport (NWL), the latter being the leading authority in the procurement. Other competitors included DB Regio and Abellio. Retaining the contract was especially important for Keolis Deutschland since they have other existing operations in the region and are able to share valuable resources. The contract will start in December 2018 and cover the operation of 5.7 million train-km per year on four lines servicing the cities of Bielefeld, Dortmund, Münster and Hamm. The cumulative revenue, including track access costs, is €955M over the 12 year period. Keolis Deutschland’s commitments include increasing capacity on peak trains as well as on-board staff presence particularly for all trains running after 19:00. This will improve overall service and security for passengers. The final agreement will be signed after the 10 day appeal period ending on October 19.

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Keolis participates in Saudi-French Business Forum

On October 12 – 13, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, French and Saudi Arabian business leaders are gathering to share commercial developments and business opportunities between the two markets at the Saudi-French Business Opportunities Forum. Keolis/SNCF have a strong presence at the event with Guillaume Pepy, CEO SNCF, and Jean-Pierre Farandou, Executive Chairman of Keolis, participating in a roundtable with other top energy, transport and telecom executives to discuss “Infrastructure and Networks in New Cities.”

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Keolis submits Capital Metro Tender

The Keolis Downer team, along with its ACTivate partners Downer, Plenary and Bombardier Transportation, submitted the final documents of the Capital Metro light rail tender in Canberra on October 2. The project will be the first rail project undertaken in Australia’s capital city and will be the backbone of the city’s transport network. The Capital Metro is a 14 kilometre light rail connecting the fast growing outer suburbs with the city centre. The successful consortium will be announced in early 2016 with construction to start later next year.

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Art Trams are back in Melbourne!

Every year, Yarra Trams works closely with Melbourne Festival to transform trams into moving canvases. The theme of this year’s artworks: Architecture and the City. Art Trams will be in circulation from October 2015 until April 2016. Click here to learn more about the 2015 Melbourne Art Trams from the artists who created them.

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Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull aboard Yarra Trams

New Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull is no stranger to public transport. He was recently seen riding one of our trams in Melbourne and tweeted that the trip was “very peaceful.” The last high-profile person to ride a Melbourne tram was Queen Elizabeth in 2011. Since his role as Prime Minister, Mr Turnbull has already taken a couple trips on-board Yarra Trams. He also travels on the G:link operated by Keolis when he is on the Gold Coast.

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Follow Jean-Pierre Farandou on Twitter!

Jean-Pierre Farandou, Executive Chairman of Keolis, has recently opened his Twitter account to share his vision of public transport and sustainable mobility. Follow him: twitter.com/jpfarandou