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Riding through the Gotthard Base Tunnel with a SMILE

A competition held during Stadler's open day enabled the company to find a name for its new line of high-speed trains: SMILE. The world's first standard, low-floor, high-speed, multiple unit train, formerly known as the Stadler EC250, was rolled out to the general public on 18 May in Bussnang, in the presence of the SBB (Swiss Federal Railways) and the President of the Swiss Confederation, Doris Leuthard. The SBB, as the first rail operator, has ordered 29 of these trains for their new "Giruno" line. The SMILE follows in the footsteps of its successful predecessors, the FLIRT, KISS and TANGO.

In celebration of Stadler's 75th anniversary, the company organised an open day on 20 May in the Swiss towns of Bussnang, Altenrhein and Winterthur which included a competition to find a name for its new high-speed train. More than 4,000 entries were received. The winning entry, "SMILE", was cast 37 times. A drawing then took place, designating Peter Bruggmann from Sulgen (Thurgau) as the lucky winner. Just like the Stadler trains "FLIRT" and "KISS", the "SMILE" is an abbreviation with a technical signification: **S**chneller **M**ehrsystemfähiger **I**nnovativer **L**eichter **E**xpresszug (English: "speedy, multi-system, innovative, lightweight express train"). FLIRT stands for **F**linker **L**eichter **I**ntercity- und **R**egional-Triebzug (English: "fast, light, innovative intercity and regional train"), while KISS is short for **K**omfortabler **I**nnovativer **S**purtstarker **S**-Bahn-Zug (English: "comfortable, innovative, sprint-capable suburban train").

A quick overview of the SMILE

The SMILE is Stadler's very first high-speed train and can reach speeds of up to 250 km/h. The SBB has put in an initial order of 29 of these trains, and will begin using them in December 2019 to travel through the Gotthard Base Tunnel. The trains, which will make up the SBB's "Giruno" line, will first connect Basel and Zurich with Milan, and later Germany and Italy. They will be approved for use in Germany, Italy and Austria, as well as of course in Switzerland.

The SMILE has been specially designed for comfort and for meeting the needs of customers, in particular families, senior citizens and people with reduced mobility. A low floor provides for extremely easy boarding, and is a first for standard, high-speed, multiple unit trains. All trains feature bright and spacious interiors with modern lighting systems. Additional amenities include (upon request): 4G/3G mobile phone connectivity, power outlets on every passenger seat, large luggage racks, multifunctional compartments, a bicycle storage area, and gender-segregated and handicapped-accessible toilets. SMILE trains are 202 metres long and can seat more than 400 passengers. The SMILE can also be operated in double traction, and thereby double its capacity.

About Stadler

Stadler has been building trains for 75 years. The system provider of rail vehicle construction solutions is headquartered in Bussnang in Eastern Switzerland, and has a workforce of over 7000 based in various locations across Switzerland, Germany, Spain, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Italy, Austria, the Netherlands, Belarus, Algeria, UK and the United States. Stadler provides a comprehensive range of products in the heavy and urban transport segments: High-speed trains, intercity trains, regional and commuter rail trains, underground trains, tram trains and trams. Furthermore, Stadler also manufactures main-line locomotives, shunting locomotives and passenger carriages, including the most powerful diesel-electric locomotive in Europe. Stadler is the world's leading manufacturer in the rack-and-pinion rail vehicle industry.

More Stadler figures: The best-selling FLIRT (Fast Light Intercity- and Regional Train) vehicle has already sold over 1400 units in a total of 17 countries. The KISS (the name is an acronym of the German for Comfortable Innovative Speedy Suburban Train) is also very popular: It has sold 270 units in 10 countries. The most powerful diesel-electric locomotive in Europe, the EURO4000, has sold 130 units in 7 countries. Additionally, Stadler Service maintains vehicle fleets comprising over 680 vehicles that cover a combined annual distance of 120 million kilometers in 16 different countries.

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