

Press release

End of excavation and start of railway works :

NGE celebrates reaching two major milestones on Lot 2 of the Grand Paris Express Line 16.

March 8, 2024, Paris - **Today, NGE celebrates the achievement of two new significant milestones, marking progress on the Line 16 of the Grand Paris Express. First, the lifting of the cutterhead of the TBM "Houda," marking the completion of the excavation of the 11 kilometer of tunnel on Lot 2 of Line 16, carried out in partnership with Webuild, the lead contractor. Then, the commencement of railway works on the same lot, led by the consortium headed by TSO, NGE's railway subsidiary.**

Line 16 will serve the department of Seine-Saint-Denis (93), which comprises 16 municipalities. Over 200,000 passengers are estimated daily, thereby contributing to removing 154,000 vehicles from circulation each day and avoiding the emission of 52,000 tonnes of CO2 annually.*

Following the arrival of the TBM "Mireille" in April 2023 at its final destination, the tunnel boring machine "Houda" completed its excavation amidst applause from the teams of the Webuild - NGE consortium, representatives of the Grand Projects Company, and local residents. Beyond the 11 kilometers of tunnel excavated by the tunnel boring machines "Houda" and "Mireille," Lot 2 of Line 16 also includes the construction of four stations: Aulnay - Val Francilia, Sevrans-Beaudottes, Sevrans-Livry, Clichy-Montfermeil, and 11 ancillary structures.

The railway works are ramping up with the tunnel becoming available.

TSO, a railway subsidiary of the NGE Group, leads the consortium responsible for installing railway systems along the entire 29 km of Line 16. This includes the railway track, the overhead contact line, and tunnel linear equipment. To date, works on Lot 1 are completed between Saint-Denis-Pleyel and Aulnay - Val Francilia stations. Work on Lot 2 is underway on both sides of Clichy-Montfermeil station, with a planned increase in activity in the second quarter, involving 310 professionals across all disciplines simultaneously.

** Grand Paris Express site.*

Feminization of Teams and Sustainable Employment

These two projects showcase notable features:

Gender diversity: 22% of women hold key supervisory roles in the railway segment, while 55 women are engaged in underground works, marking the highest representation among the Grand Paris Express construction sites.

Strong Local Engagement:

- **Civil Engineering:** Significant local involvement, with over 290,000 work hours contributed by skilled workers, of whom more than 85% reside in the three territories traversed by the future metro line. Approximately fifty employees have been hired on long-term contracts through insertion initiatives.
- **Railway:** 130 employees on long-term contracts have been recruited through 15 sessions of POEC (Preparation for Employment Contracts) training programs financed by Employment Centers (Pôle Emploi) in the 93 department, covering three roles: track laying assistant, overhead line installer assistant, and track team leader. These training sessions are conducted by PLATE FORME, the vocational training center of the NGE Group, at the Saint-Denis (93) Employment Center, conveniently located near the construction site.

Major Innovations to Reduce Carbon Impact

Utilization of fiber-reinforced concrete voussoirs for most tunnel wall linings, resulting in a 50% reduction in the steel quantity required for the project. This represents the inaugural application of such technology in France. The voussoirs are manufactured in a facility jointly owned by NGE located near Paris. NGE has also utilized its expertise to export this technology to Lots 1 and 2 of the Toulouse Metro Line C.

On the railway side, the consortium is already employing low-carbon or "green" rails on Lots 1 and 2 of Line 16. Steel production occurs through electric arc furnaces rather than coal-fired blast furnaces, resulting in the avoidance of 1,455 tons of CO₂ emissions per ton of rails produced. This process ensures that 95% of the steel used is sourced from recycled materials.

The Grand Paris Express project will extend the metro network of the French capital by 200 km, incorporating 68 stations to improve connections between the city center and its outskirts. Its overarching goal is to stimulate local economic growth, create employment opportunities, promote sustainable mobility, and mitigate both traffic congestion and air pollution.

Drawing upon its diverse expertise, NGE emerges as a key player in the Greater Paris public transportation network, participating in 19 segments ranging from underground construction (Lines 11, 14 south, 15, and 16) to railway systems (EOLE, Lines 11 and 16), as well as significant civil engineering projects like the aerial section of Line 17 or the construction of stations such as Aulnay and Parc des Expositions.

* Grand Paris Express site.

About NGE

As the 4th largest construction group in France, NGE – New Generations of Entrepreneurs – specializes in the construction of major infrastructure as well as urban and local projects. With expertise in financing, design, construction, and maintenance, the Group has become a key player in delivering infrastructures that address the economic and ecological challenges of the territories. Its entrepreneurial momentum is supported by a strong employee ownership structure (founders, management, and employees hold 72% of the Group's capital), reinforced by Montefiore Investment, a leading French investment firm (28% of the capital).

Press contact: Eloi FOUQUOIRE

eloi.fouquoire@gmail.com

+33 (0)6 76 77 11 56