

Press release – Paris Gare de Lyon, 23 April 2026

**Modernisation of RER D: a historic switchover of the Gare de Lyon underground interlocking systems delivered by the Compagnie des Signaux, SYSTRA and Eiffage Énergie Systèmes consortium alongside SNCF Réseau teams**

Paris, 23 April 2026 – The weekend of 1 May will mark a historic milestone for the south-eastern axis of the Île-de-France rail network: the technological upgrade of two interlocking systems at the entrance to Gare de Lyon and their connection, along with the equipment they control, to the control centre at Vigneux-sur-Seine (91, Essonne). Compagnie des Signaux (CSEE), SYSTRA and Eiffage Énergie Systèmes are proud to place their expertise at the service of the transformation of Europe’s largest mass-transit rail network.

This large-scale operation represents the culmination of several years of preparation and will mobilise more than 500 SNCF Réseau and consortium personnel. It also constitutes a key component of the extensive NExTEO modernisation programme for RER lines B and D.

**A contractual innovation driving performance**

**This project stands out for its innovative contractual structure in the rail sector: the ‘turnkey’ approach on an operational line. The Île-de-France Regional Division of SNCF Réseau** entrusted an industrial consortium with the entire value chain, from design and engineering through civil works and commissioning.

*“We welcome the relevance of the ‘turnkey’ contractual model initiated by SNCF Réseau. As leader of the consortium, we fostered an innovative approach built around a unified project team. This highly integrated model generated strong performance while giving real meaning to the work of teams who were deeply committed to this project,”* states Gilles Pascual, CEO of Compagnie des Signaux, member of the MERMEC Group.

**End-to-end technical mastery and fully orchestrated operations**

Replacing two relay-based interlocking systems more than 30 years old with state-of-the-art digital systems at the heart of one of Europe’s busiest stations while maintaining daily operations represented a major challenge.

*“Carrying out this regeneration safely over the four years of works without disrupting traffic flow requires flawless technical coordination and seamless continuity between theory, execution and commissioning. Our mission covered the entire project lifecycle. By being involved from the very early design stages right through to the final safety tests and commissioning, we ensured the optimal integration of all systems. This holistic approach is essential to securing the complex functionalities of Gare de Lyon underground and to calmly preparing for the arrival of the NExTEO system,”* explains *Éric de Balincourt*, President of SYSTRA France.

### **Renewed signalling in a highly complex environment**

Modernising an existing line leading out of Gare de Lyon presented a real challenge for the design offices of Eiffage Énergie Systèmes during the four years of preliminary works, and a technical feat for the construction teams working every night, with numerous interfaces and external constraints to manage.

*“Thanks to this turnkey contract, we were able to orchestrate with maximum agility all signalling studies and works essential to preparing the interlocking switchover. Working under demanding conditions at night in a dense urban environment, Eiffage Énergie Systèmes teams ensured railway safety while contributing to the modernisation of the Île-de-France network. Maintaining control of the works and their potential operational impacts over four years was key to meeting this particularly tight schedule,”* states *Ludovic Duplan*, President of Eiffage Énergie Systèmes.

### **A project paving the way for the future of the national rail network**

Faced with the challenges of transforming the French national rail network, the CSEE–SYSTRA–Eiffage Énergie Systèmes consortium is emerging as a leading strategic partner for SNCF Réseau.

Gilles Pascault concludes: *“The turnkey approach will accelerate the deployment of next-generation ARGOS interlocking systems and new railway operating systems across France.”*



### About Compagnie des Signaux

Founded in 1902, **Compagnie des Signaux**, a member of the MERMEC Group, with MERMEC, BPI France (the French government's investment bank) and BNP Paribas as shareholders is a **leading provider of high-speed rail signalling** and integrated systems for passenger and freight transport. Specialising in the provision of **turnkey signalling solutions based on the latest ETCS standards** for the management and control of new or existing rail networks, it works with rail infrastructure managers, railway operators and high-speed train manufacturers worldwide.

To date, **CSEE has equipped over 7,000 kilometres of high-speed railway lines** and installed more than 2,000 on-board units worldwide, with active projects in Europe, Asia and Africa, notably in Morocco, Spain and South Korea.

Visit [www.csignaux.com](http://www.csignaux.com) for more information.

### About SYSTRA

SYSTRA is one of the **world's leading engineering and consulting groups** specialising in **public transport and mobility solutions**. For over 65 years, the Group has supported cities and regions in their development by **designing, improving and modernising transport infrastructure**. By making travel easier, SYSTRA brings communities closer together, promotes social integration and facilitates access to employment, healthcare, education and leisure activities.

By facilitating mobility, SYSTRA helps connect communities, foster social inclusion and improve access to employment, healthcare, education and leisure.

SYSTRA supports its partners and clients throughout the entire project lifecycle, from early design phases through deployment and maintenance testing. **With a workforce of 12,000**, SYSTRA offers its services in over 80 countries worldwide and generates 80% of its turnover internationally.

Visit [www.systra.com](http://www.systra.com) for more information.

### About Eiffage Énergie Systèmes

Eiffage Énergie Systèmes designs, builds, operates and maintains electrical, industrial, climate and energy systems while respecting people and the environment. The company offers tailored solutions for the industrial, infrastructure and networks, cities and local authorities, and tertiary sectors. Eiffage Énergie Systèmes achieved €8.1 billion in revenue in 2025.

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