

Paris, 6 May 2020

INGÉROP, DESIGNER OF A UNIQUE AND INNOVATIVE TRACK SYSTEM FOR VERY LIGHT RAIL, COVENTRY'S FUTURE TRAMWAY



INGÉROP, DESIGNER OF A UNIQUE AND INNOVATIVE TRACK SYSTEM FOR VERY LIGHT RAIL, COVENTRY'S FUTURE TRAMWAY

Ingérop, a major player in consulting and engineering, is part of a Franco-British partnership of importance aiming to develop a new track system for the Coventry's light rail in the United Kingdom. Coventry City Council in collaboration with University of Warwick has appointed Ingérop, via its British subsidiary Rendel Ltd, to develop a cost-effective track system, suitable for the needs of a medium size city (330 000 residents), as part of a research and development initiative.

A large-scale cooperation for an ambitious project

Currently under development, Coventry Very Light Rail (CVLR) is a battery-powered light rail project. The aim is to develop an autonomous vehicle capable of carrying up to 50 passengers and operate 24/7 for optimal services in line with the needs of Coventry's residents.

In this context, one of the essential steps required to achieve this objective is the design of tracks compatible with its operation. The construction of tracks being the most important cost element in a new light rail line, this is a strategic challenge. To meet this challenge, engineers from WMG of University of Warwick, the Ingérop group and its British subsidiary Rendel Ltd work together with Coventry City Council.

A R&D initiative to lower costs

In order to launch this R&D initiative, a subsidy of £1.5m has been granted by WMCA. The objective of this project is to design a track system that can be easily installed and removed. This novel concept will reduce the amount of construction works and the disruption of gas, electricity, telecommunications, and sewage utility networks. The public project funders will save hundreds of thousands of pounds in comparison with conventional light rail systems.

For Philippe-André HANNA, Director for International Transport at Ingérop: *“Preventing construction cost issues is essential for a city like Coventry. The system’s lightweight, the design of prefabricated tracks and the ability to maintain existing utility services (gas, electricity, etc.) in place are opportunities to reduce the construction cost. Therefore, it is a particularly innovative solution which could inspire lots of medium size cities in the future, where mobility is a major challenge.”*

“I am delighted that Ingérop and its subsidiary Rendel join forces with us for this very interesting light rail project. I believe this project will transform mobility by offering a profitable, sustainable, and reliable service at a fraction of the cost of a conventional light rail system. The track system will be key to the success of this project; therefore I am pleased to collaborate with the Ingérop group to imagine together what innovations we can bring.” said Councillor Jim O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Regeneration at Coventry City Council.

The objective, for the Coventry City, WMG and the Ingérop group, is to **lower the cost to £10m per kilometre of line** instead of an average cost of £35 to £50m for conventional light rail systems in major urban areas, by taking the track system developed for Edinburgh’s light rail in Scotland as an example.

About Ingérop

A leading player in France and with a strong international presence, Ingérop is an engineering and consulting group in sustainable mobility, energy transition and living environment. The group is present in all construction sectors: Building, Water, Energy, Industry, Infrastructure, Transportation, and Urban Development. Independent, based in Rueil-Malmaison (France), it employs nearly 2,100 employees and expects to generate sales of more than €246 million in 2020, including almost 30% internationally. Operating in more than 70 countries, Ingérop continues its steady development both in France and abroad thanks to its shareholder independence, technical expertise, capacity for innovation and proximity to its clients.

Service de presse Ingérop

CLC Communications - 01 42 93 04 04

Jérôme Saczewski - j.saczewski@clccom.com

Anne-Claire Berthomieu - ac.berthomieu@clccom.com

Diane Jourdan - d.jourdan@clccom.com

Contact Communication Ingérop

Sophie Rapatel - Directeur de la communication

sophie.rapatel@ingerop.com

Tél : 01 49 04 55 08 - Port : 06 20 88 16 76

www.ingerop.fr