

Alstom Transport awarded Sapa Mass Transportation the supply of Structural Profiles and Friction Stir Welded components for Amsterdam's new metro. (March 2010)

The municipality of Amsterdam (The Netherlands) has recently placed an order with Alstom Transport for 23 metro trainsets. The contract includes an option for 12 additional metro trainsets for the North/South line being under construction. This new metro generation will make access and getting around on board easier thanks to large doors, continuous low floor, extra wide chairs and gangways between the coaches. Besides, dynamic travel information, communication connections and transparent interiors will improve passengers' safety and comfort. Thanks to larger length of the new metro trains (116 m), the total transportation capacity will increase by approximately 50%, up to 960 passengers per train.

Part of Alstom's Metropolis range, the metro has been designed in Valenciennes site (France), Alstom's development centre for urban trains. It will first be produced in Valenciennes and then in Katowice (Poland).

Sapa's scope includes 430 tons of structural extrusions and FSW components for the lower side walls as well as pillars of the train. Sapa will be the major extrusion supplier for this project (total turnover: ~ 2,5 Mio €). The first deliveries to Valenciennes will start in June 2010, and will involve both Sapa RC Profiles in Belgium and Sapa Profiler AB in Finspong.

Considering the challenges we faced supplying Alstom last year, it is very encouraging to see that, thanks to the increased customer intimacy, the professional attitude in tackling the challenges from the past by RC Profiles and the focus on Valenciennes site, Sapa has been awarded the most complex profiles. Sapa RC Profiles is renowned and well placed to deliver these difficult long length profiles. Part of the success is also due to the intensive technical collaboration, resulting in a number of improvements to meet the requirements on flatness and straightness of the FSW components and to reduce cost in general. We are pleased that our multiple efforts have been acknowledged.

We would like to thank the Sapa RC Profiles team in Belgium for their active support and involvement in the Alstom projects, and the Finspong team for the quality of their FSW products delivered to Alstom since number of years. These combined efforts convinced Alstom to continue using FSW technology and complex profiles from Belgium in their carbody design.

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Key Account Manager

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