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Vapeur Val-de-Travers (VVT)

On the night of 15th/16th December the station at St. Sulpice was completely burnt out destroying the offices of the Vapeur Val-de-Travers (VVT) as well as the plans and archives of rolling stock and their reserves of drinks and souvenirs for the 2002 season. The locomotive depot some 50 metres from the station was unaffected. For more information and pictures see their website at <http://www.vvt.ch>

The provisional 2002 timetable for the Vapeur Val-de-Travers shows the following running days:

11-12 May

7-9 June

6-7 July

10-11 August

7-8 September

12-13 October

One or two of the trains run through to Neuchâtel. The timetable is published on their website and is of course conditional on recovering from the fire.

ALSTOM receives letter of intent from Swiss railways for European Train Control system

ALSTOM has received a letter of intent from Swiss Federal Railways (SBB/CFF/FFS) for a European Train Control System (ETCS) for the Mattstetten - Rothrist rail line between Zurich and Bern. The project value is in the range of 125 million euros. ALSTOM's share is approximately 65%, and partner Stadler will receive the remainder for integration and installation of on-board signaling systems.

This landmark project is the largest order to date for this proven, next-generation technology, which will greatly improve rail network performance not only in Switzerland but ultimately throughout Europe. This is the first of many projects within the framework of the SBB's "Bahn 2000" plan for network performance improvement. For this turnkey project, ALSTOM will supply components from its ATLAS™ system for signaling and train control. Specifically, ALSTOM will provide the on-board equipment, the radio-block system and peripherals; and the on-board cab-radio system.

Michel Moreau, President of ALSTOM's Transport Sector, said: "This award is a great success for ALSTOM; not only because it is the first signaling order we have received in this country, but also because it truly establishes the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) as the standard for future signaling systems in Europe. And ERTMS is vitally important to Europe as a whole as it will provide, for the first time, interoperability of trains across the entire continent. Switzerland lies at the very centre of Europe; our project will initiate the development of this seamless network."

The contract will come in force upon signing, scheduled for end of January 2002. Final delivery and commissioning are scheduled for November 2004.

ALSTOM is the global specialist in energy and transport infrastructure. The Company serves the energy market through its activities in the fields of power generation, power transmission and distribution and power conversion and the transport market through its activities in rail and marine.

Following the sale of its electrical contracting activity, finalised on 20 July 2001, ALSTOM has annual sales in excess of 22 billion euros and employs 120,000 people in over 70 countries.

The Company is listed on the Paris, London and New York stock exchanges. ALSTOM's Transport Sector, with annual sales of 4.4 billion euros, is an internationally leading supplier of rolling stock, information systems, services and complete turnkey systems to the rail industry.

MH-R

NOTEPAD is compiled by Nick Freezer and on this occasion includes contributions by Malcolm Hardy-Randall, David Stevenson, George Hoekstra, Duncan McKay, Brian Hemming, Steve Horobin. Other items are courtesy, Alstom, Swiss Info, Jungfrau Bahn and SBB

Brian Hemming

SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS-STOCK CHANGES

SEPTEMBER 2001

Withdrawn: Tm^I - 465 Tm^{II} - 619, 761, 762, 782, 820, 830
Ae6/6 - 11410 (first of class)

OCTOBER 2001 - Withdrawn: Tem^I - 263

NOVEMBER 2001 - Withdrawn: Tem^I - 272 Tm^{II} - 688, 713, 714

DECEMBER 2001- Nil