

## PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 31 March 2021

## A FIRST BUS LINE ENTIRELY OPERATED BY AUTONOMOUS ELECTRIC SHUTTLES IN THE PARIS ILE-DE-FRANCE REGION

Inaugurated on 31 March 2021, a new bus line<sup>1</sup> serving the suburban train station of Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines-Montigny-le-Bretonneux<sup>2</sup> and several local business parks in the Île-de-France Mobilités network enables passengers to reach their destination on autonomous electric shuttles.

Following previous trials in La Défense and Vincennes, this project, led in close collaboration with Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines intercommunal district, is a new milestone in the development of autonomous shuttles as a mobility solution by Île-de-France Mobilités, the public transport authority for the Paris Île-de-France region.

**For the first time, the autonomous shuttles operate alongside regular traffic and feature as a mobility solution in the Île-de-France Mobilités journey planner app**, just like the other 1,500 bus lines in the Île-de-France network.

### A free service operated by Keolis

With €2.4 million in funding from Île-de-France Mobilités, the service is free of charge for all passengers and operates Monday to Friday from 7.30 am to 8 pm.

The choice of Keolis to run the first regular autonomous shuttle service on behalf of Île-de-France Mobilités reflects a commitment to delivering a quality of service in line with the level achieved on other bus lines in the region.

The new line has been designed to complete the existing bus service by providing a last mile solution for the local employment area.

### Three Navya autonomous electric shuttles over 1.6 km route

From 31 March 2021 to June 2022 (with a possible extension), three Navya autonomous shuttles will run between the Pas-du-Lac business park in Montigny-le-Bretonneux and Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines / Montigny-le-Bretonneux train station, over a 1.6 km route featuring three stops<sup>3</sup>.

The shuttles will operate every eight minutes in rush hour and every 17 minutes at off-peak times.

Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines intercommunal district, with the support of Montigny-le-Bretonneux, the Pas-du-Lac local co-ownership association (ASL) and Banque Populaire Val de France, are providing technical engineering expertise and in-depth knowledge of the region for the project. The district also made the necessary adjustments to enable the shuttles and their integrated technology to operate safely in high density traffic.

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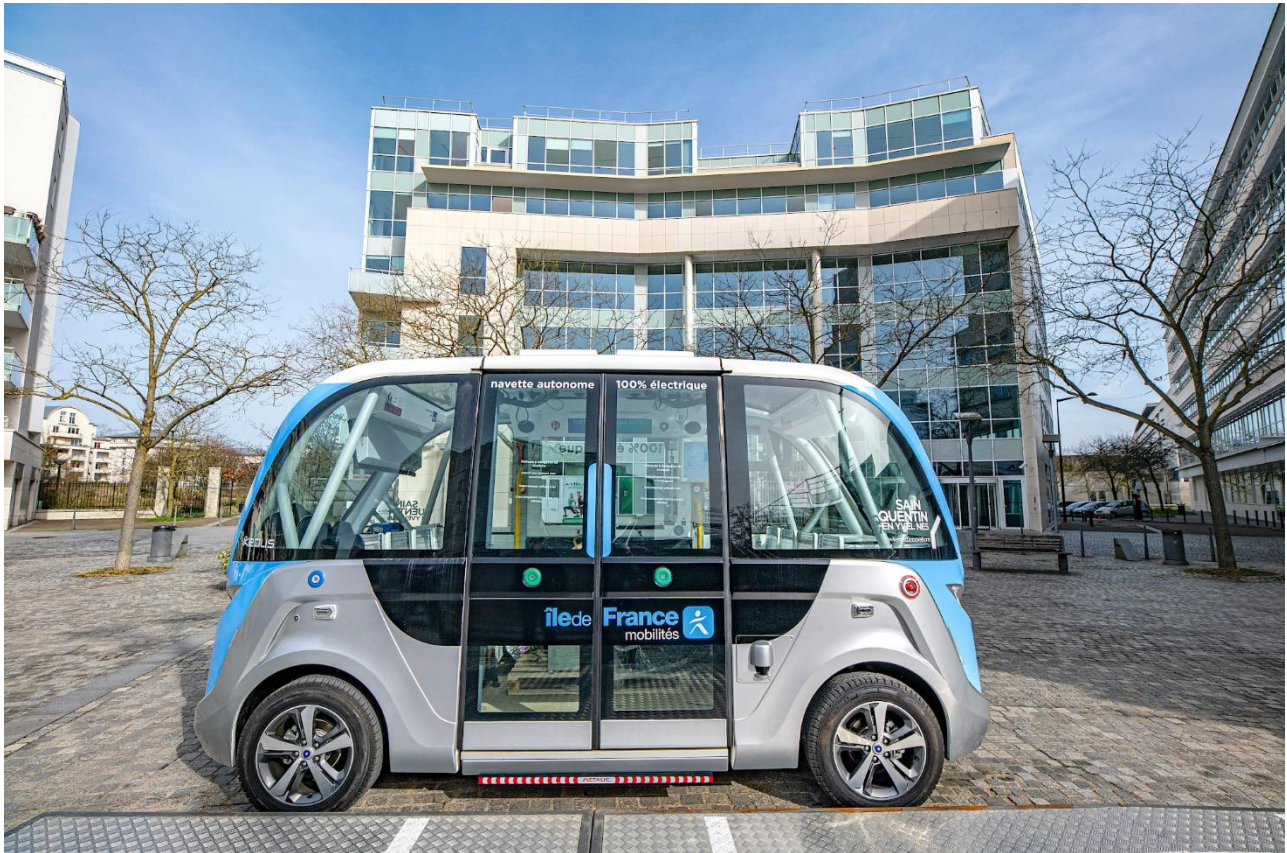
<sup>1</sup> n°490

<sup>2</sup> RER C and N & U lines

<sup>3</sup> Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines station / Delouvrier (Place de Wicklow), Newton, Newton Niepce

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**11 people seated and a safety operator**

Each autonomous electric shuttle can carry 11 seated passengers. In each vehicle, a safety operator will be present at all times, ready to intervene if necessary, in compliance with current legislation. The shuttles can navigate safely across busy junctions thanks to on-board V2X technology enabling the shuttles to communicate with traffic lights as well as a retractable bollard connected to the vehicle via a RFID device which is actioned automatically as the shuttle approaches.

Keolis uses a fleet management tool provided by VIA, a developer and provider of on-demand shared ride services. The system tracks the shuttles' position remotely in real time, and monitors passenger numbers, kilometres covered and vehicle speed.

The role of the safety operator is also to welcome passengers on board the shuttles and answer their questions. Just like on regular bus routes, passenger information will also be available on the Île-de-France Mobilités and Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines mobile apps and websites.

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**About Île-de-France Mobilités**

Île-de-France Mobilités designs, organises and finances transport for everyone living in the Ile-de-France region. Every day in Île-de-France 9.4 million trips are made by residents using one of the largest public transport networks in the world. Whether for business or pleasure, with a Navigo pass (card or smartphone) or a single ticket, passengers can ride on the 1,500 bus routes, 14 metro lines, 9 tram lines and 13 train and RER lines which crisscross the Region. In the next ten years or so, the Île-de-France Mobilités network will have been enhanced with numerous extensions and new metro, tram and RER lines under construction at the moment, including the future lines 15, 16, 17 and 18 and the regional metro (Grand Paris Express project).

To operate all of these lines every day, Île-de-France Mobilités has contracts with transport companies such as RATP, SNCF, Transdev, Keolis, RATP Dev, Savac-Lacroix and many others.

The cost of running this gigantic system amounts to more than 10.5 billion euros each year. It is financed by local authorities (region, departments and the City of Paris), employers via a transport subsidy tax and the obligation to cover 50% of the cost of transport for staff, and by the ticket sales. It's Île-de-France Mobilités that creates the various ticket types such as Ticket +, Navigo Liberté+, Navigo weekly/monthly/annual passes, Imagine'R pass, Senior pass and Junior pass, and sets the prices.

**About Keolis**

Keolis is a pioneer in developing public transport systems and works alongside public authorities who want to enhance shared mobility systems to grow the appeal and vitality of their regions. A world leader in operating automated metro and tramway systems, Keolis and its partners and subsidiaries Kisio, EFFIA, Keolis Santé and Cykleo support the core business with innovations offering new and bespoke shared mobility solutions for modes including trains, buses and coaches, trolleybuses, shared car solutions, river and sea shuttle services, bike share services, car sharing, fully electric driverless shuttles and urban cable cars. In France, Keolis is the second largest provider of parking management solutions through its subsidiary EFFIA, and the country's leader in medical transport since the creation of Keolis Santé in July 2017. The Group is 70%-owned by SNCF and 30%-owned by the Caisse de Dépôt et Placement du Québec (Quebec Deposit and

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Investment Fund), and employs 68,500 people in 16 countries. In 2020, it posted revenue of €6.1 billion. In 2019, 3.4 billion passengers used one of Keolis' shared mobility services. [www.keolis.com](http://www.keolis.com)

\* Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, India, the Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Senegal, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States.

**About the Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines intercommunal district**

With 145,000 jobs and 17,000 businesses, Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines is the second largest economic centre in the western Paris area. As the economic hub of Paris-Saclay, the world-renowned science and technology cluster, SQY offers a recognised ecosystem of large companies, innovative SMEs and micro-enterprises, and public and private research centres.

SQY is also rich in mobility with its seven train stations. Its 90 bus routes make the SQY bus network one of the largest in the Île-de-France region, with particular attention given to persons with reduced mobility (PRM), because SQY is on its way to fulfilling its obligations with eight new reduced-mobility lines this year. The conurbation also encourages active mobility solutions, demonstrated by its 420km of cycle routes and its Vélostation bike rental, repair and parking service, launched in 2017. Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines also became the second conurbation in France to offer an electric scooter rental service across its 12 communes and chose TIER as its unique operator. The intercommunal district is thus extending its transport provision and fulfilling its aim to offer green and sustainable solutions.

SQY is a district resolutely focused on innovation where some of the most ambitious mobility solutions of the future are tried and tested. The autonomous shuttle is a prime example.

**Île-de-France Mobilités press contacts:**

Amélie Lange: [amelie.lange@iledefrance-mobilites.fr](mailto:amelie.lange@iledefrance-mobilites.fr) – +33 (0)182 538090 – +33 (0)760 109505

Sébastien Mabilie: [sebastien.mabilie@iledefrance-mobilites.fr](mailto:sebastien.mabilie@iledefrance-mobilites.fr) – +33 (0)147 532842 – +33 (0)615 392158

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**Keolis press contacts:**

Linda Huguet: [linda.huguet@keolis.com](mailto:linda.huguet@keolis.com)

Alexandre Poidevin: [alexandre.poidevin@keolis.com](mailto:alexandre.poidevin@keolis.com)

**Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines intercommunal district press contacts:**

Maiwenn Pibouleau: [maiwenn.pibouleau@sqy.fr](mailto:maiwenn.pibouleau@sqy.fr)

Sylvain Faroux: [sylvain.faroux@sqy.fr](mailto:sylvain.faroux@sqy.fr)