

# France's Premier Rail Industry Event [www.sifer2019.com](http://www.sifer2019.com)

**26, 27, 28 March 2019 | Lille**



Press Release | April 2019

## **A RECORD-BREAKING EDITION IN 2019**

**SIFER CELEBRATES ITS 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BY SHOWCASING A WEALTH OF INNOVATIONS  
AND REACHING THE MILESTONE OF 5,000 VISITORS AND 440 EXHIBITORS**

On its 11th and latest edition, SIFER has once again confirmed its role as the leading event for rail industry professionals to meet, discover innovations and develop business opportunities. This year, at SIFER, the railway sector has demonstrated its ability to reinvent and transform itself – a fact borne out by the 443 participating exhibitors, 26% of which were international. 5,400 visitors attended the exhibition, a historical figure which symbolises the importance that SIFER has taken over time.

**Digital technologies were the main focus for many of the projects presented at this year's show.**

**Digital technologies to prevent risks of failure and to protect the environment.** For instance, Bayer exhibited a system designed to prevent and manage risks posed by weeds while limiting the use of herbicides. Météo France and its subsidiary Météorage presented a solution for predicting lightning strikes.

**Digital technologies to predict maintenance interventions with a view to improve traffic quality and passenger comfort.** French SME Prosyst showcased the evolution of its joint laboratory project – initially conducted with Bombardier Transport and the University of Valenciennes – to step up development in the field of predictive maintenance in order to remain competitive in the global arena. SNCF Réseau revealed a collaborative project that draws on the expertise of its partners – O2Game and Laumonier – to develop a predictive maintenance tool capable of predicting overhead line breakages and ultimately improving the quality of rail traffic without interruption.

**Digital technologies to accelerate the manufacturing process and optimise costs.** Using 3D printing, it takes Stratasys only two days to manufacture an armrest for a train, whereas with conventional methods, the process would normally take up to four weeks.

## **Some of the major digital technology highlights at SIFER 2019**

**A big hit with many visitors was the BTP Rail conference** entitled "Railways in the digital age", which addressed fascinating topics such as BIM Rail, structured data, IoT and connected sensors.

**IRT Railenium and i-Trans** made headline news with their conference entitled, "The autonomous train: scientific and technological challenges".

**Capgemini and Kisio** hosted two conferences on the topical issue of Big Data, namely: "Big data as the new value enabler to ensure maintenance transformation of SNCF Réseau", and "How do new Big Data methodologies impact studies and consulting in Mobility?"

Yes, the rail industry has definitely entered the digital age. In the rail industry, we no longer speak of digital transformation. This is a sector that already has integrated digital technologies in its global offering of products and services. And this was clearly apparent at SIFER!

### **Press enquiries**

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### SIFER opened up additional exhibition space in 2019

The decision was taken to accommodate the increasing number of businesses that wanted to showcase their latest innovations during the 3-day event, but also to enhance the visitor experience.

The extension also meant that some 50% more floor space could be allotted to the Infrastructure area. This sector is the main driver in today's railway market and accounts for more than a third of the total exhibition floor space, a figure which has doubled since this feature area was first introduced in 2007. Of course, the Grand Paris project – the largest rail infrastructure project in Europe – was one of the major topics of discussion during the three days of the exhibition.

**Within the space of 20 years SIFER has become the must-attend international event for stakeholders from across all sectors of the railway industry**, from major industry contractors, equipment manufacturers, suppliers and sub-contractors, to public-transport operators and management authorities. Held every two years, the exhibition provides direct insight into the major transformations taking place within the industry and the current and future challenges it faces. This year, dominant topics included the liberalisation of passenger transport services, major ongoing projects, such as the Charles de Gaulle Express project and the Lyon-Turin line, and investment in high-speed lines. Moreover, 2019 promises to be a good year in terms of investments: between 2017 and 2027, the French government plans to invest a record EUR 46 billion, including EUR 3.8M billion for this year alone.

**All eyes are now turned to the 12<sup>th</sup> SIFER exhibition in 2021, in Lille.**

### What exhibitors have to say about SIFER 2019

*"Our main focus this year was on Innovation as a means of enhancing network performance. In choosing this theme, we wanted to show that SNCF Réseau is making good progress, especially in terms of technology and digitalisation."*

Franck RICHARD – Pôle ATLAS – Production and Deployment Manager, SYNAPSE expert

*"We have attended SIFER as visitors in the past, but this is the first year that we attended as an exhibitor. Given the very positive outcome of these last 3 days, it is highly likely that we will be back again in two years."*

Victor DA CRUZ – Non-Automotive Sales Manager, ZF Services France

*"We have been exhibiting at SIFER for more than 15 years. It is an event we cannot afford to miss and, as France's leading rail industry exhibition, we owe it to ourselves to attend. We were very satisfied with this year's quality of attendance ; we met a lot of interested and interesting people. We will definitely be back in 2021!"*

Benjamin GOURMEL – Strategic Account Manager, Leroy Automation

*"We were very pleased with the way the exhibition was organised in general, which made it easy to meet visitors and other exhibitors. In that sense, it really is an event that promotes the exchange of ideas. The associated events were also very interesting as well."*

Olivier DEJEAN – Sphera, Mipirail

### What official show partners have to say about SIFER 2019

#### Jean-Pierre Audoux, General Manager, French Railway Industry Association (FIF)

"Two events in particular stand out in my mind: the relocation of the exhibition from Villepinte to Lille, which brought fresh impetus to the event; and the first major conference hosted by FIF in 2013 on the future of the French rail industry, which was a resounding success."

#### SNCF Réseau

"SNCF Réseau has been a long-standing partner of SIFER. We first attended in 1999. Our attendance here in the Hauts-de-France region makes perfect sense. After all, it is the most important region in France in terms of rail activity and home to a number of world class equipment manufacturers and suppliers. The exhibition's continuous growth, both in terms of exhibitor numbers and exhibition space occupied at the Lille Grand Palais venue, is proof of the dynamism of the global rail sector, but also of the willingness of public authorities to invest massively in the French rail network."

#### Philippe Citroën, Managing Director, UNIFE

"In an increasingly urbanised world facing the challenges of climate change, rail transport will, without a doubt, form the backbone of future mobility. This will require a transformation of the rail system achieved through sustained efforts in Research & Innovation, especially in the areas such as digitalisation, the autonomous train, and predictive maintenance. The post-2020 extension of the European Public-Private Partnership, Shift2Rail, which is co-financed by the European Commission, will be essential to support this change."

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## Other highlights of SIFER 2019...

**UNIFE** hosted a round-table discussion that brought together representatives of the European rail industry and European institutions to exchange ideas on a political issue: "On the road to innovation: what EU support for the rail industry?"

**Once again, the symposium hosted by the French Railway Industry Association (FIF)** attracted a large audience: "2019: Crucial construction projects for the rail industry"

**Ville, Rail & Transports** addressed one of the major issues of 2019: "Brussels vetoes the Alstom-Siemens merger. What next?"

## Winners of the Innovations Awards competition hosted by i-Trans and ERCI

The awards ceremony took place on the second show day, during the Networking Reception.

### **Best Big Company** | "Capgemini, Virtual Train"

The Virtual Train project is part of the test-bench system validation and half-train testing processes used at ALSTOM production sites. The aim of the project is to reduce the time required by operators to validate a system, facilitate access to key information from equipment and enable operators to interact with real and/or simulated equipment directly using Mixed Reality technology (VR for bench testing and AR for half trains).

### **Best SME** | Phitech, "ARP – Aide au Repérage Portes"

This innovation is designed to help visually impaired people to locate, from the platform, the doors of the train (tram, metro, etc.) that they want to take and obtain non-accessible visual information – destination, train number, coach number, etc. – so that they can board the right train without assistance.

### **Jury's Special Prize** | SNCF Réseau, "MSDI – Module de Surveillance de Déviation de l'Isolément"

The innovative aspect of the MSDI system lies in its ability to take measurements without injecting a voltage. With the system, the power supplied to a signalling control system, as well as changes in the power supply, can be continuously and remotely monitored for predictive maintenance purposes.

SHOW PARTNERS						INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERS		MEDIA PARTNERS			
						For further information, visit <a href="http://www.sifer2019.com">www.sifer2019.com</a>					

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