



A **Kevin Speed** rail service

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## PRESS RELEASE

### The track access framework agreement between Kevin Speed and SNCF Réseau is endorsed by the French transport regulator's opinion

Wednesday 21 May, the French transport regulator (ART) has published [its opinion](#) on the track access framework agreement signed on 29 February between French rail operator Kevin Speed and the French rail infrastructure manager SNCF Réseau. Kevin Speed is pleased with this opinion which paves the way for the French high-speed rail market's opening to private investors. The company is now one step closer to operating its first **ilisto** service by the end of 2028.

In its opinion, ART states that it considers that this historic track access framework agreement "does not prevent the use of the infrastructure by other applicants or transport services".

The ten-year renewable duration of the agreement is deemed to comply with applicable laws in view of the specific investments made and the risks involved, and the contractual stipulations between the parties have not been subject to any objections that would affect the balance of the agreement.

ART has also taken note of the green light given by all the Regions affected by the **ilisto** services, implicit by the absence of reference of the matter to ART by the deadline of 12 April.

Kevin Speed thus becomes the first rail operator, complementary to SNCF Voyageurs, to obtain this level of confidence from the Ministry of Transport, the regional authorities and the independent regulation authority that is ART.

**Laurent Fourtune, CEO of Kevin Speed**, comments: *"We are very pleased with the ART's opinion, which endorses the track access framework agreement signed last February. The French authorities' commitment reinforces the interest in the ilisto project for our major French and foreign private investors, as we are currently raising 1.2 billion euros. This new step brings us even closer to the actual introduction of ilisto trains on the rails, for the benefit of all".*

ART points out that *"the track access framework agreement system is an effective tool for managing capacity on the rail network"* and again recommends that SNCF Réseau

commit to developing such agreements for access to the railway network for passenger transport services.

This makes **ilisto** the first operator in the open access market to commit to serving French medium-sized towns and territories. By the end of 2028, it will be operating omnibus trains on its first three lines:

- Lille Flandres - TGV Haute-Picardie (Estrées-Deniécourt) - Paris Gare du Nord ;
- Strasbourg - Lorraine TGV - Meuse TGV - Champagne-Ardenne TGV - Paris Gare de l'Est ;
- Lyon Part-Dieu - Mâcon-Loché TGV - Le Creusot-Montceau-Montchanin TGV - Paris Gare de Lyon.

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### **About Kevin Speed and its ilisto service**

Kevin Speed is a French rail company founded in 2021, chaired by Laurent Fourtune and headed by 4 partners with railway expertise. Its ilisto service aims to offer "high speed for everyone, every day". Its goal is to launch high-speed (300 km/h) and affordable ("low-cost") trains between metropolitan French areas and towns close to those cities by the end of 2028.

For further information, visit [kevin-rail.com](http://kevin-rail.com).