

# « SuperRail – HTS Installation am Gare Montparnasse »

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# RATIONALS

**Need to increase the traffic on the railway network in densely populated areas with high constraint to comply with 2030 carbon reduction objectives**

**The solutions should be in line the strategy of SNCF :**

- To reduce the losses
- To participate to the low carbon national strategy
- To optimize capital and operational expenditure to answer the needs



**➔ Practical case = the supply of power from Vouillé substation to Montparnasse station tracks**

# CONTEXT

## High constraints on the Montparnasse-Vouillé Site

*In 2023 SNCF should deliver an electrical installation able to transmit more energy to the tracks in order to improve the robustness of the electricity supply of Montparnasse station (50 Millions of passengers in 2020, 90 Millions in 2030).*

- ▶ **Conventional solution** : to reinforce with copper cables  
**=> not possible here due to limitations of the rights of ways**
- ▶ **Innovating solution** : **Superconducting cable system**



Roadmap in progress to establish a strategy from 2025-2035 to reinforce the railway network on the left river side of Paris. This roadmap will identify other sites where superconducting technologies can be of interest.



# PROJECT OBJECTIVES



To increase the energy density in a highly constraint area where conventional technologies, based on reinforcement by resistive cables, are not applicable.



To increase the commercial offer by increasing the public transport capacity and reliability.

To develop industry and education related to the superconducting technologies (R&D, design, production, installation and test labs), particularly in France.



To deploy the world 1<sup>st</sup> demonstrator of superconducting cable permanently in exploitation in a railway network.



To validate the superconducting technology on Montparnasse-Vouillé site.

To qualify this technology for future projects to reinforce and secure the national railway network.



This project is supported by France 2030.





CONSORTIUM

SUPERRAIL 

NETWORK OPERATOR



RESEARCH LABS

INDUSTRY



CentraleSupélec



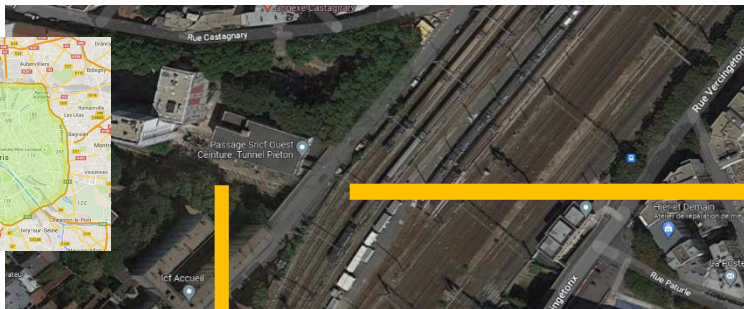
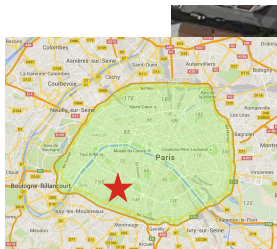
UNIVERSITÉ DE LORRAINE



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# LOCALIZATION



Railways tracks



"Ouest Ceinture" substation





Existing Rights of way saturated with only 4 pipes left (100 mm in diameter) to transport 2 x 3500 A @1500 V DC



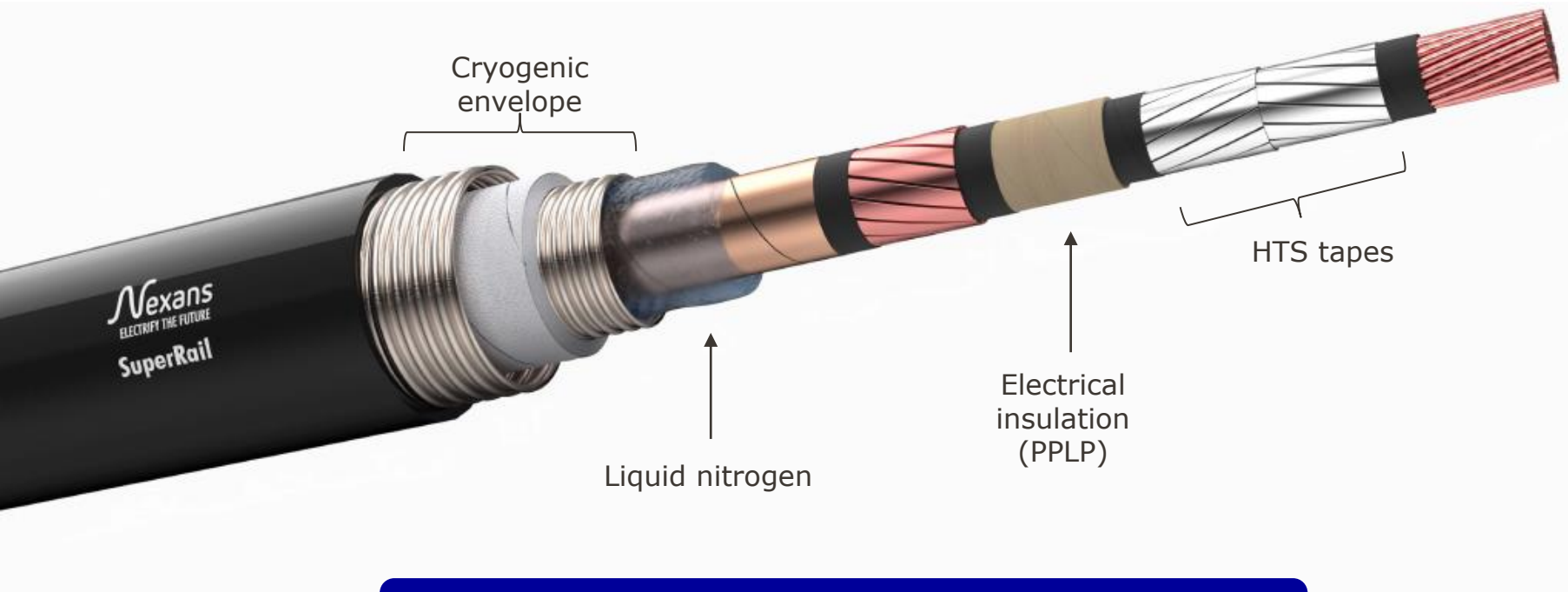
Very risky to build new rights of way with one century old constructions and presence of a lot of other networks (water, gas, telecom)



# CHALLENGING SPECIFICATIONS

- ▶ **2 electrically independent cables system to supply each :**
  - **1700 A @ 1500 VDC in rated conditions (max 3% of harmonics below 5 kHz)**
  - **3500 A @ 1500 VDC current inrush (trains acceleration to reach traffic speed)**
  
- ▶ **Return currents through the rails (connected to the negative (0) pole of the DC supplies)**
  
- ▶ **Substation directly connected to the transmission network at 63 kV**
  - **Fault power of 1000 MVA**
  - **Fault current of 67 kA during 200 ms**
  
- ▶ **Cooling system**
  - **Power of 1,2 kW@67K for the cable system**



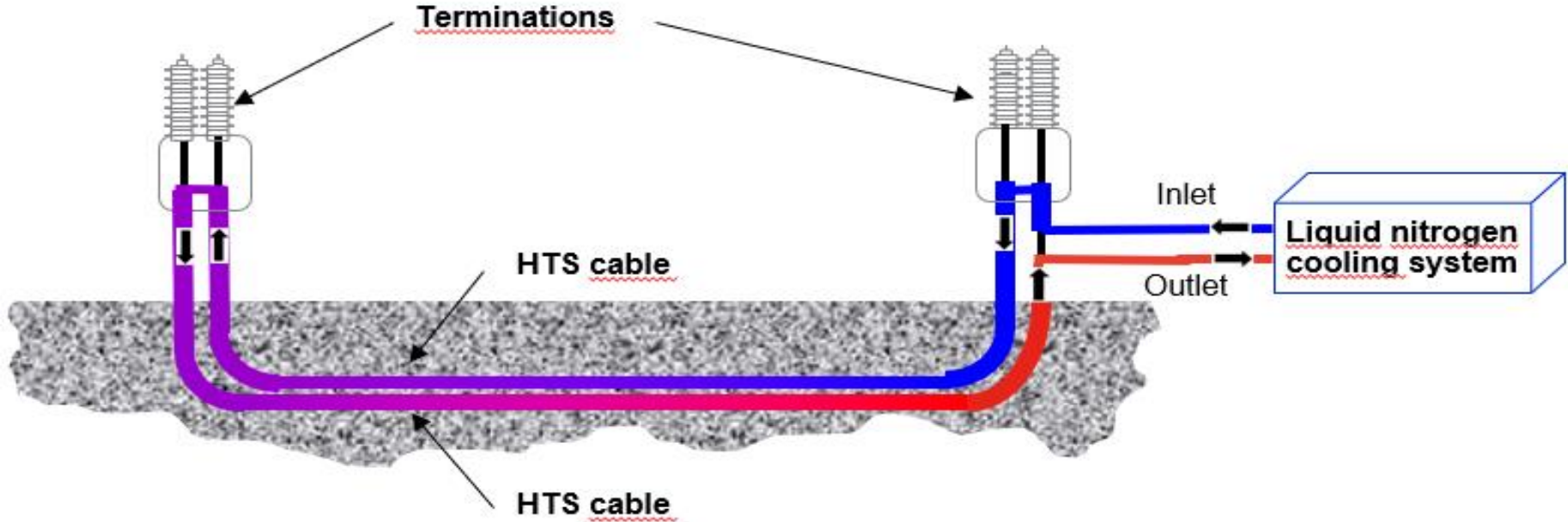


**63 mm cable to be pulled in 100 mm pipes**

# SUPERCONDUCTING CABLE TERMINATION



# COOLING SYSTEM AND MONITORING

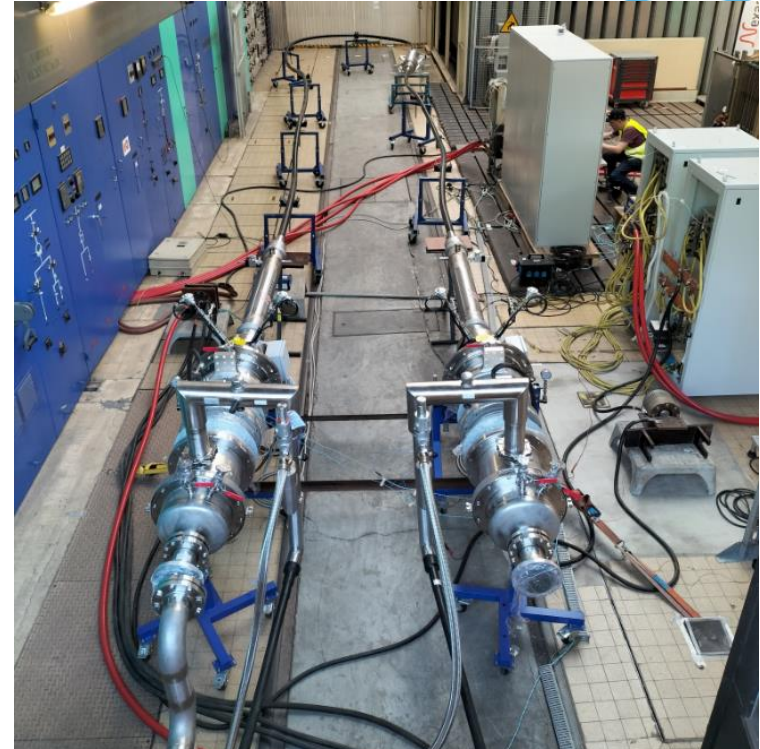


- The alarm levels, for temperatures and pressures, and algorithms are defined with SNCF in charge of the control cabinet to communicate with exploitation & protection systems



# TYPE TEST IN SNCF LABORATORY

Pre-Test	Applicable standard	Description
<b>Bending Test</b>	IEC 63075*	3 bends of 180° repeated in both direction + Visual inspection
<b>Critical current</b>	IEC 63075*	Check if any $I_c$ degradation on tapes after bending
<b>Pressure test</b>	IEC 63075	1,1 x max operating pressure After installation, prior to cool down without the safety devices
<b>Thermal test</b>	IEC 63075	5 Cycles of cooling down and warming up

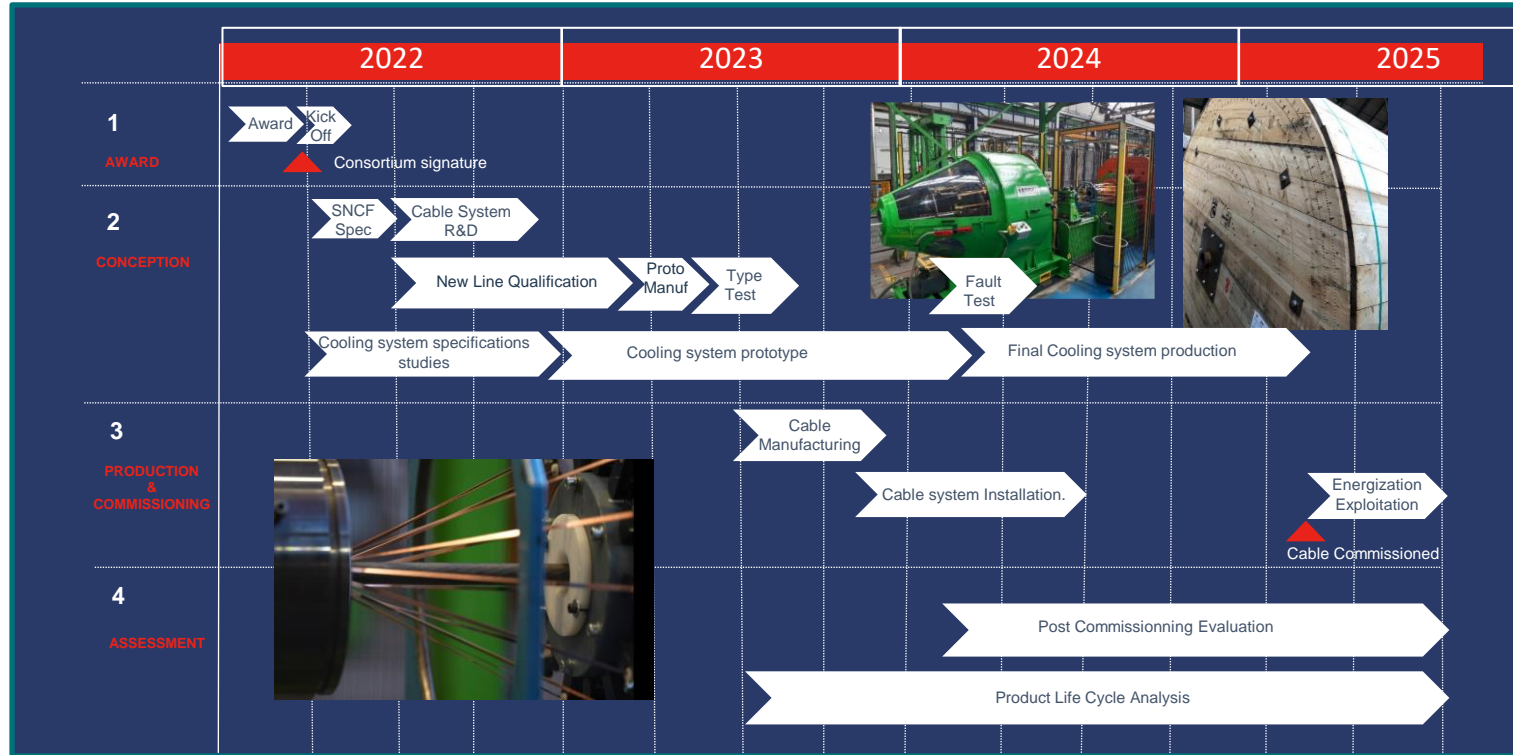


\* IEC 63075:2019 specifies test methods and requirements for high temperature superconducting (HTS) AC power cable systems, cables and their accessories, for fixed installations, for rated voltages from 6 kV ( $U_m = 7,2$  kV) up to and including 500 kV ( $U_m = 550$  kV)

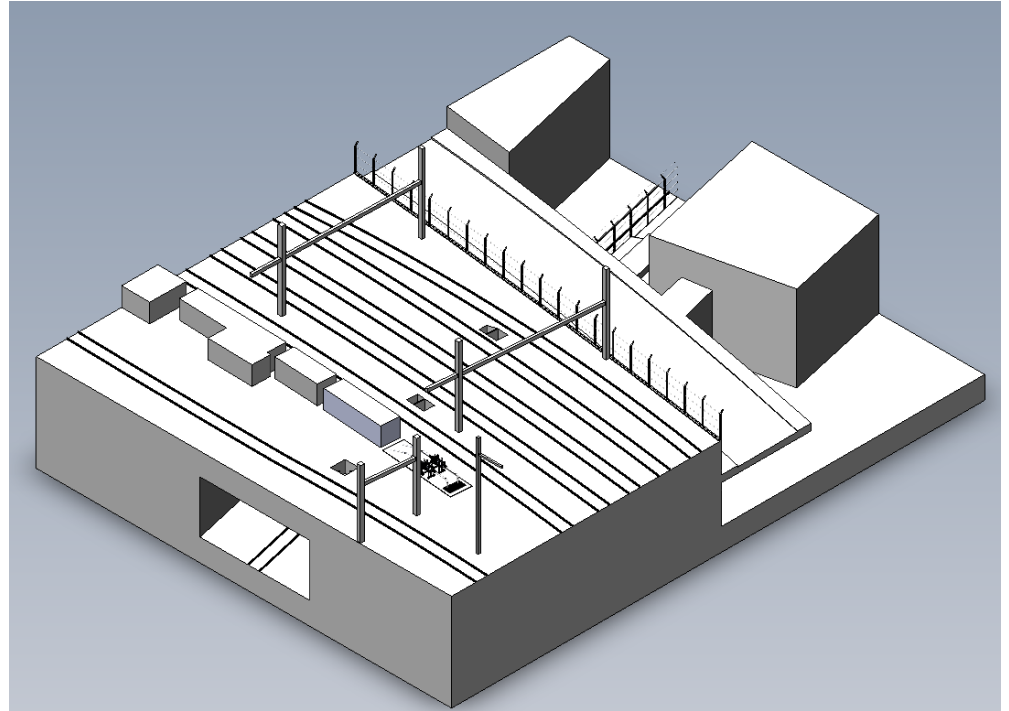
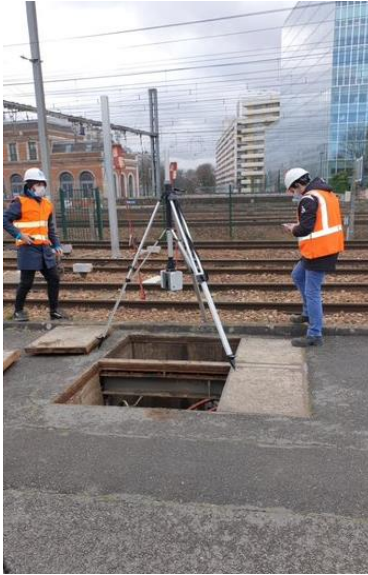


Electrical Test	Applicable standard	Description
<b>Lightning impulse</b>	EN 50124-1** Table A2 EN 60664-1** (only for 1,5 kVDC)	$U_n = 1,5 \text{ kV} \rightarrow U_{Nm} = 1,8 \text{ kV} \rightarrow U_{Ni} = 15 \text{ kV}$ (OV4) $U_n = 3 \text{ kV} \rightarrow U_{Nm} = 3,6 \text{ kV} \rightarrow U_{Ni} = 30 \text{ kV}$ (OV4) Page 18 : 3 x 1,2 $\mu\text{s}$ / 50 $\mu\text{s}$ each polarity
<b>Dielectric test</b>	EN 50124-1** Table B1	$U_{Ni} = 15 \text{ kV} \rightarrow U_a = 6,9 \text{ kVrms} / 10 \text{ kVDC}$ $U_{Ni} = 30 \text{ kV} \rightarrow U_a = 14 \text{ kVrms} / 20 \text{ kVDC}$
<b>Fault current</b>	No specific standards	Energy equivalent to 67 kA – 100 ms fault with terminations temperatures monitoring until recovery

\*\* electrical standards specific to railway network



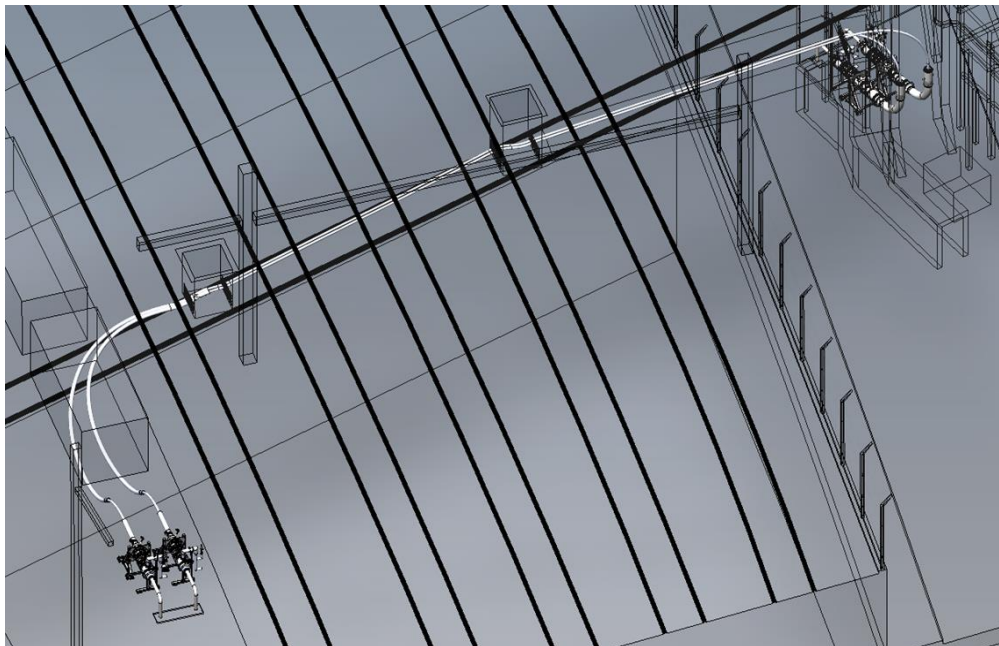
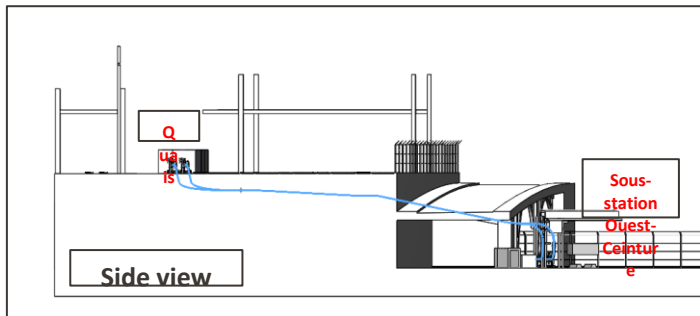
# 3D SITE MAP



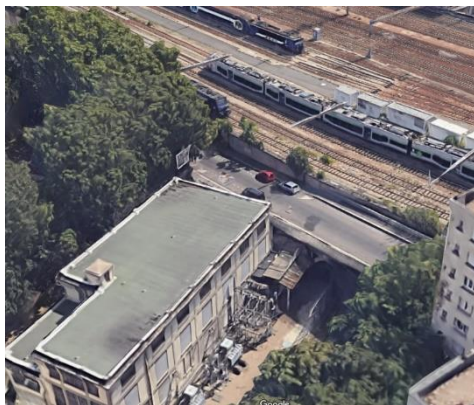
- LIDAR scan of the area
- Construction of a 3D drawings for the virtual integration of equipment to anticipate issues and confirm designs of different components



# SUPERCONDUCTING CABLE ROUTE



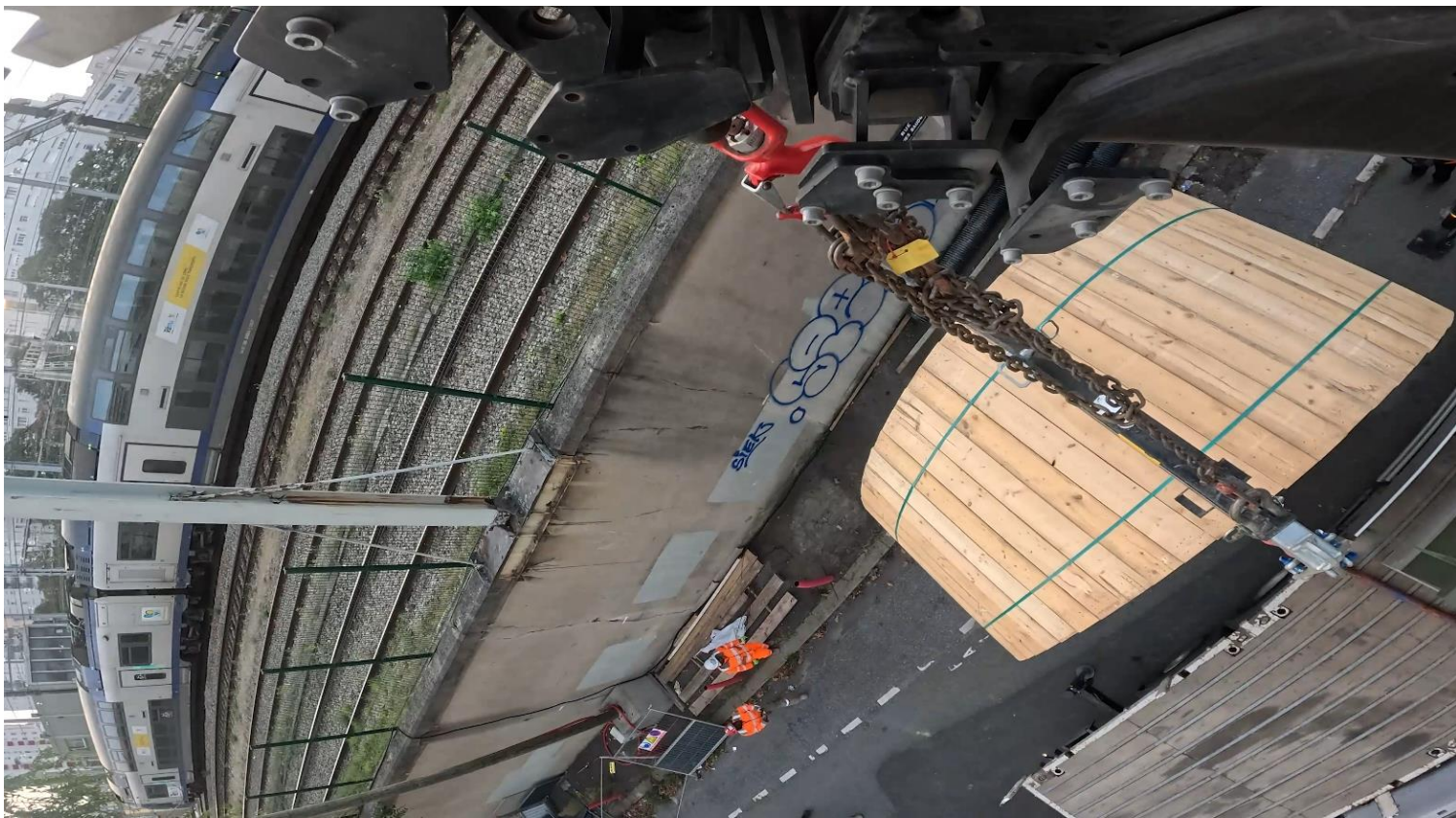
« Ouest-Ceinture »  
substation

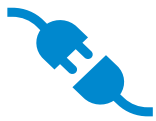




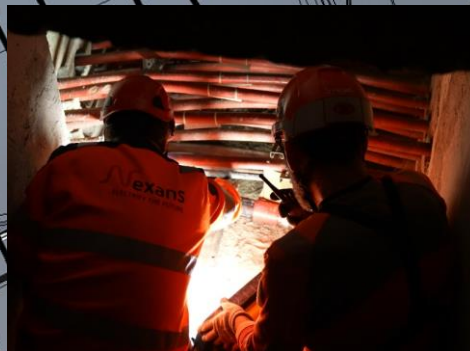


# SUPERCONDUCTING CABLE INSTALLATION





# SUPERCONDUCTING CABLE INSTALLATION



2 Terminations  
on substations side

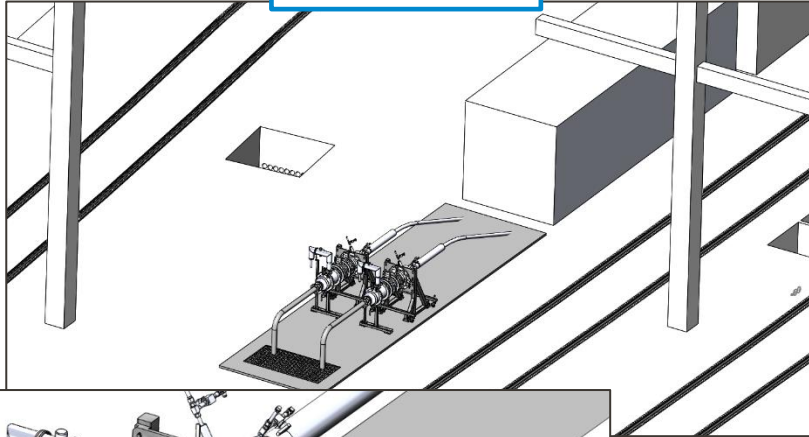


2 Terminations  
on platforms side

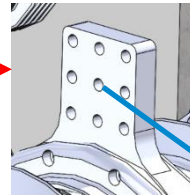
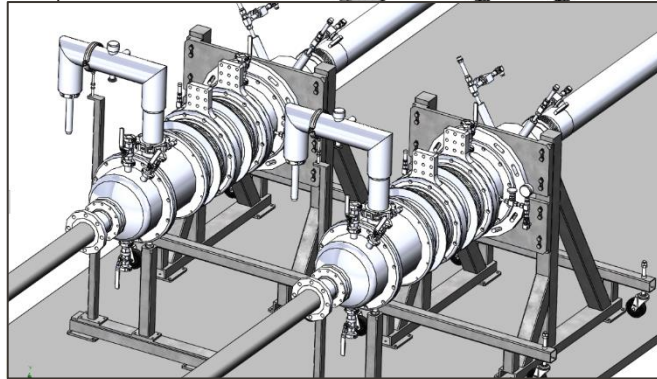
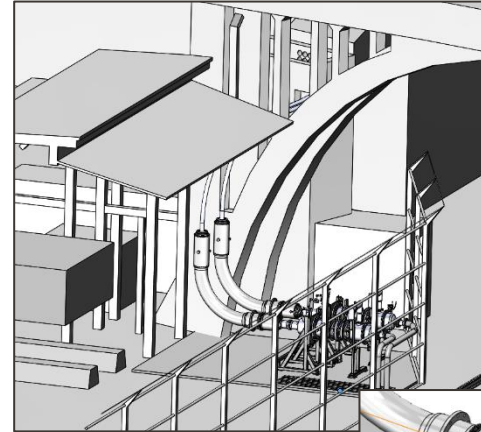


# TERMINATIONS INTEGRATION

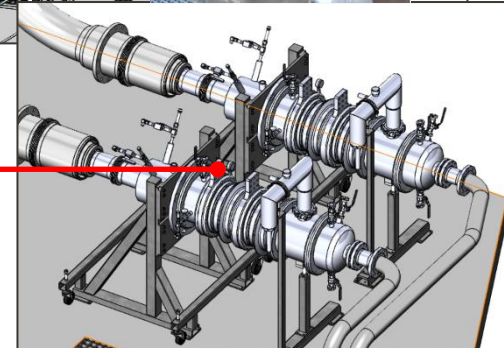
PLATFORM SIDE



SUBSTATION SIDE



Copper plate to connect to conventional network





## CONCLUSION

- ▶ **SuperRail** constitutes an excellent example of **how a superconducting can unlock situations in power grids** where conventional technologies are not applicable.
- ▶ The superconductivity is **a way to increase the capacity of power supply to public transport in dense areas, allowing to meet national low carbon objectives.**
- ▶ The validation of **the superconducting technology** during SuperRail will qualify superconducting cable **for future projects to reinforce and secure the national railway grid.**
- ▶ SuperRail promotes **continuous improvement** of superconducting system through R&D approach **to reduce losses** and through **experiences in exploitation with SNCF teams** up to the end of the project and beyond



This project is supported by France 2030.





SUPERCONDUCTIVITY  
TO PROMOTE  
LVDC AND MVDC IN  
ENERGY NETWORK

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**SUPERRAIL** 



**SCARLET** 

Superconducting Cables for  
sustainable Energy Transition

# European Project SCARLET (2022-2027)

- ❑ **Goal:** develop and industrially manufacture MVDC superconducting cable systems at the gigawatt level, bringing them to the last qualification step before commercialization
- ❑ Expertise from **15** industry and research organisations in the fields of material sciences, cryogenics, energy systems and electrical engineering



SINTEF

SUPERNODE™



IASS  
POTSDAM



RINA

ABSOLUT  
SYSTEM

INNOVATIVE CRYOGENIC SOLUTIONS



WavEC  
Offshore Renewables



ESPCI PARIS | PSL



Nexans



# Project structure

- ❑ 3 demonstration work packages
  - MVDC HTS superconducting cable systems
  - MVDC MgB<sub>2</sub> cables in liquid hydrogen
  - System protection
- ❑ 1 work package on architectures of offshore superconducting cable systems
- ❑ 1 work package for integration studies and economic evaluation
- ❑ lastly, work packages for communication and coordination

