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New partnership between Polytechnique Montréal, Alstom and AtkinsRéalis to develop Québec's expertise in sustainable rail mobility

Montréal, Thursday, April 11, 2024 – Alstom, a global leader in sustainable and smart mobility, AtkinsRéalis, a global leader in professional services and project management, dedicated to engineering a better future for our planet and its people, and Polytechnique Montréal, a top engineering university, signed an agreement today to develop a training program that will enhance Québec expertise in sustainable rail mobility.

With the North American rail industry expected to grow significantly in the coming years, access to seasoned resources to address green mobility issues is critical for this sector.

By combining their strengths and expertise, the partners intend to explore ways to develop specialized training courses in the field of railway and public transit engineering that directly address both mobility and decarbonization issues. The agreement also provides for the hiring of interns and recent graduates from Polytechnique Montréal and paves the way for knowledge sharing through rail industry conferences and direct support for student projects.

“We are thrilled with this agreement with Alstom and AtkinsRéalis, which strengthens the ties between Polytechnique Montréal and the railway sector. Developing this field is crucial to addressing transportation sustainability. The training available at Polytechnique Montréal is already geared towards the energy transition, and this joint exercise will allow us to go even further. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students.” - Maud Cohen, President of Polytechnique Montréal.

“AtkinsRéalis is very proud to be part of this tripartite collaboration agreement. The training project will provide students with valuable hands-on experience from railway sector experts and pave the way for a more qualified and skilled workforce in the transportation sector. This is even more critical given the challenges we face today. Multi-sectoral collaboration will be required to achieve our societal goals, and that includes industry involvement in shaping students.” - Stéphanie Vaillancourt, President, Canada, AtkinsRéalis.

“Alstom is fortunate to employ more than 700 engineers in Canada, most of whom are based at our design, engineering and innovation center in St-Bruno-de-Montarville. As mass transit and passenger rail projects accelerate across North America, it's important to ensure a succession ready to meet the complexities of a rapidly transforming market.” - Michael Keroullé, President, Alstom Americas.

According to the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec, 52,000 new engineering professionals will be needed by 2033. That's a 40% increase over the next 10 years¹. The electrical engineering sector is expected to be affected by a labour shortage, due in part to the energy transition's acceleration, including the electrification of transportation. Chemical engineers could also be in high demand with the expansion of the hydrogen industry, particularly for heavy vehicle transportation, and increased production of lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles. Demand is also expected to increase in institutional building design and monitoring (structural, mechanical, and electrical engineering) and civil works (civil, electrical engineering) in light of public policy trends.

The need for Québec engineers to integrate the railway engineering expertise developed elsewhere in the world is increasingly felt across the province. This agreement is an important step that will benefit the industry as a whole and underscores the drive to foster sustainable mobility in Québec.

- 30 -

Source:

Andrée-Lyne Hallé
Alstom Canada
438.467.6491
andree-lyne.halle@alstomgroup.com

Daniela Pizzuto
AtkinsRéalis
514.248.3116
Daniela.pizzuto@atkinsrealis.com

Annie Touchette
Polytechnique Montréal
514.231.8133
annie.touchette@polymtl.ca

¹ Source : Projections - [Offre et demande de professionnelles et professionnels en génie au Québec Horizon 2033](#), Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec, novembre 2023