

THE PININFARINA-DESIGNED WONDER TRAIN

The Goldenpass Express, panoramic train of the MOB railway, becomes reality in Switzerland

December 6, 2022 – As of this December, several million tourists a year will be able to enjoy the views on the borders of the Vaud and Bernese Alps from on board the new **trains designed by Pininfarina for the MOB (Montreux Oberland Bernese)** railway company, with **Stadler Rail technology**.

The **Goldenpass Express**, which will go into service on 11 December 2022, is a dream come true. It will connect three of Switzerland's main tourist destinations: Montreux, Gstaad and Interlaken, boosting the attractiveness of these resorts. A challenge made possible by a revolutionary variable gauge bogie that will make it possible to switch in just a few seconds from narrow gauge (1m from Montreux to Zweisimmen) to standard (1.43m from Zweisimmen to Interlaken), meaning that travellers won't have to change trains at Zweisimmen station. With the Goldenpass Express, the future flagship of its fleet, MOB expects to accommodate an extra 1.5 million passengers a year.

With the Goldenpass Express MOB is facing a spectacular technological challenge, shifting from narrow gauge to standard gauge. They also wanted this tourist train to be beautiful and elegant: "We are looking to build prestige. The design should be innovative, original, fitting with our brand values but also inoffensive, and ideally "compatible" with the series 9000 from Stadler as they will be coupled together to form a complete trainset". That's why they assigned the task to Pininfarina. For MOB in 1993, Pininfarina had already designed the Cristal Panoramic Express, one of the Swiss company's most successful trains and one of the most photographed by tourists.

In designing the train, Pininfarina had to take into account the new safety standards and the change in the position of the driver, at the head of the convoy: this radically changed the architecture of the front of the train compared to the Crystal, nevertheless the Pininfarina proposal allows to maintain a large window ▶



that allows passengers in the VIP area to enjoy a full view ahead of them, including onto the track and beyond the driver. The window features of the future trains also make it possible to avoid any reflection or reverberation on photos taken by passengers. The end result is an object that we can define as elegant in its harmonic simplicity.

“Having to deal with new safety standards”, explains **Alfredo Palma, Pininfarina’s Design Project Manager**, “has been a stimulus and sometimes an opportunity, rather than a limitation to our creativity. In every project, whether it is automotive, transportation or architecture, our goal is to create beautiful objects while overcoming technical or regulatory obstacles. With the MOB we have created a train that offers an

immersive travel experience, in total symbiosis with the beauty of the surrounding nature”.

Pininfarina has extensive experience in the railway sector, having designed the interiors and exteriors of high-speed trains in Italy (the famous ETR 500, the first Italian project for a high-speed train, which appeared in 1985) and Spain. Over the years Pininfarina has also designed carriages for the Swiss, Danish and Norwegian railways, the light rail system in service in Lille, and trams currently in operation in various cities in Italy, Greece, Sweden and Turkey. Pininfarina also designed the interior and exterior of the Polaris train for the journey from Zermatt to the Gornergrat and, for Eurostar, the exterior livery and the interior of the new, cutting edge e320, which carries over 900 passengers at a speed of 320 kph.▲



ABOUT MOB

The Montreux Oberland Bernois (MOB) railway company is a key player in Switzerland's tourism and public transport sectors. Its panoramic and Belle Epoque trains are a benchmark in railway circles. The very popular journey between Montreux and

Zweisimmen sums up the essence of Switzerland: its cities, lakes, mountains and countryside. Every year, the MOB railway welcomes visitors from all over the world with the number of passengers from Asia growing rapidly.

ABOUT PININFARINA

Global icon of Italian style, Pininfarina is recognized for its unparalleled ability to create timeless beauty through its values of elegance, purity, and innovation. Founded in 1930, Pininfarina has evolved from an artisan concern to an international service Group, supreme expression of automotive styling and an established reality in industrial and experience design, architecture, nautical

and mobility beyond automotive. A group employing 500 people, offices in Italy, Germany, China and the United States and listed on the Stock Exchange since 1986. Over the course of nine decades Pininfarina has designed more than 1,200 vehicles and more than 600 projects in different areas, receiving numerous international awards.

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