

Case Study

Bordeaux Tramway

Mexphalte C - Shell adds some sparkle to Bordeaux's tramway system



A special asphalt mixture of aggregates, recycled glass and Shell's binder product, Mexphalte C, is having a sparkling effect on the road around Bordeaux's tramway line in South West France.

The regional capital of Aquitaine in south west France, Bordeaux, is served by three lines of tramway carrying over 110,000 passengers every day. The original design created over 21km which has since extended to over 27km of tramway.

Bordeaux's tramway really stands out thanks to Shell's Mexphalte C

Critical Success Factors:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Close customer relationship- Product properties- Proven track record
Application:	- Asphalt mixed with aggregates and recycled glass
Volume:	500 tons of Shell Mexphalte C
Product family:	Pigmentable binder
Product grade:	Shell Mexphalte C
Client:	Tram et Bus de la CUB
Contractor:	Screg South West



Shell Bitumen

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Endurable, adorable and affordable

The architects in charge of the project set a challenging specification for the asphalt surface surrounding the tramlines.

The main areas were **safety, comfort, appearance** and importantly the mix needed to provide excellent **performance** at traffic crossings.

The special asphalt used on the surrounding roadway around the tramlines has unique photometric properties. Its surface sparkles when it is exposed to sunlight, artificial light or light from traffic. Mexphalte C, Shell Bitumen's pigmentable binder, played an important role at the design stage to ensure the effectiveness of this special characteristic.

A partnership approach

SCINTIFLEX, the product that offers the unique photometric properties, is produced by Screg South West, one of Shell's clients.

Shell's Technical Bitumen department provided technical support to Screg South West's personnel that enabled Scintiflex, based on Mexphalte C, to be selected from a number of other options for this project.

In order to highlight Scintiflex greenish-grey colour, and its sparkling effect, it was proposed to the architects that Mexphalte C, a fairly transparent binder when used with any pigment, was the most appropriate binder for the job.

Cedric added: "Safety was an important criterion for choosing Scintiflex as it's easily seen by motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. It would attract their attention and signal to them that they were on a road which also catered for trams."

“ Scintiflex, was usually used on roads along France's South West coast. The Bordeaux tramway represented Scintiflex's first application on a tramway and it was also the first time that Mexphalte C was used in France for this type of application. ”

Cedric Leroux, Shell France's Bitumen Technical department

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