**Sandvik roadheaders to excavate Ottawa’s Confederation Line tunnel in Canada**

***Rideau Transit Group (RTG), theconsortium responsible to design, build, finance and maintain the Confederation Line light rail project, have contracted Sandvik roadheadersfor the excavation of the mined tunnel. The 2.5 kilometer long tunnel that runs under Ottawa’s downtown core is one of the principal features of the project.***

The Canadian city of Ottawa currently has the highest public transport ridership of any city its size in North America and the growth is estimated to continue by more than 78% in the next 20 years. Such a high growth rate has led the city to reach the maximum transport capacity in its downtown streets. In order to meet the demand, the City of Ottawa decided to move forward and build the Confederation Line.

The project includes 12.5 kilometers of light rail, 13 stations and the conversion of portions of the existing bus transit way into light rail technology. Within the 2.5 km tunnel, 3 underground stations will be built in the very core of downtown. Construction of the project began in spring 2013 and the system is scheduled to open to the public in 2018.

The project budget of CAD 2.13 billion makes the Confederation Line the largest project in the history of the City of Ottawa. It is also one of the first conversions of a Bus Rapid Transit system to Light Rail Transit technology in North America. Furthermore, it is the first part of a LRT network that will span for more than 40 km across thecity.

OLRT Constructors, RTG’s contractor on this design, build, financeand maintain project decided to use three Sandvik MT720 roadheaders for the excavation of the tunnel mainly because of their excellent economy as well as low levels of noise and dust. All three machines are fully PLC controlled and equipped with a “Roadheader Guidance System” which ensures that the machine maintains its absolute position in the tunnel axis with the highest precision. In combination with the profile control and visualization, the system keeps over excavation within 5 cm.An extensive diagnosis system monitors the machine, providing real timeessential status data of vital functions and components.The machines are also equipped with auxiliary diesel engines that allow operating all hydraulic functions, including tramming,without the necessity of connectingthe machine to the main electric power supply.

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| **DIMENSIONS** | **MT720** |
| Machine weight | 135 t |
| Machine length (incl. swivel belt) | 19.1 m |
| Machine height | 4.8 m |
| **CUTTING PROFILE** |  |
| Cutting height | 6.6 m |
| Cutting width | 9.1 m |
| **INSTALLED ELECTRICAL POWER** |  |
| Total installed power | 555 kW |
| Cutter motor power | 300 kW |

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**For more information, please contact:**

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**Sandvik Group**  
Sandvik is a global industrial group with advanced products and world-leading positions in selected areas – tools for metal cutting, equipment and tools for the mining and construction industries, stainless materials, special alloys, metallic and ceramic resistance materials as well as process systems. In 2012 the Group had about 49,000 employees and representation in 130 countries, with annual sales of about 99,000 MSEK.

**Sandvik Construction**Sandvik Construction is a business area within the Sandvik Group providing solutions for virtually any construction industry application encompassing such diverse businesses as surface rock quarrying, tunneling, excavation, demolition, road building, recycling and civil engineering. The range of products includes rock tools, drilling rigs, breakers, bulk-materials handling and crushing and screening machinery. In 2012 sales amounted to about 9,700 MSEK, with approximately 3,300 employees.